MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

7 FEBRUARY 1983

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi units "completely" destroyed an Iranian offensive in the Ash-Shib region and Iraqi planes scored direct hits on Iranian positions in the Maysan sector, Iraqi military communiques broadcast by Baghdad radio 6-7 February declared. According to INA, "several hundred" Iranian POW's were moved to the rear early 7 February. However, Tehran radio's Arabic service claimed that Iranian soldiers "liberated" three Iranian checkpoints from the Iraqis.

During a 7 February Majlis session, Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed hope that the latest Iranian offensive will be the decisive operation that will finally determine the region's future, Tehran radio reported. Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared that Iran "does not covet a single inch of Iraqi territory" or resources and urged the Iraqi people to prepare themselves for a better life in which "Saddam's regime does not exist."

Earlier, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn stressed that the military situation has radically changed in favor of Iraq and affirmed that the Iraqi leadership is determined to "completely annihilate" the attacking forces and capture those who do not wish to fight, INA reported citing a 6 February interview with Husayn. He stated that Iranian military commanders are "apprehensive" about the offensive and "do not want to assume responsibility" because they realize it is doomed to fail. He added that the Iranian commanders want to hold the politicians responsible for the offensive whereas the politicians want to hold the military responsible. Husayn explained that Iraqi forces have avoided shelling Iranian civilian targets in response to an appeal by the Iranian opposition to refrain from "direct deterrence."

Iran

Tudeh Party General Secretary Nureddin Kianuri has been arrested on charges of spying for the Soviet Union, AFP reported citing AZADEGAN.

Lebanon

A 5 February car bomb explosion outside the Palestinian Research Center and the Libyan news agency in Beirut killed 20 people and wounded 100 others, Beirut radio reported. The Front for the Liberation of Lebanon from Foreigners claimed responsibility, the radio noted. The explosion destroyed most of the contents of the Research Center and killed four Palestinian researchers, according to a statement by a PLO source broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio. The statement held "the Zionist occupation forces and their agents in Lebanon fully responsible" and called on the Lebanese Government and the multinational force to protect Palestinian institutions and citizens in Lebanon.

Fighting between Druze and Christian militias continued over the weekend culminating in a violent clash in western 'Alayh on 6 February, according to Beirut radio reports. The Druze fighters "purged" 'Alayh of Phalangists, killing 25 of their militiamen and destroying their center, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio reported. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon admitted that the Phalangists were forced to withdraw their "symbolic" presence from 'Alayh but said they had captured 'Aytat from the Druze militia. Another attempt to reach a cease-fire agreement under IDF auspices will be made on 7 February, the radio said.

The IDF officer involved in the recent incident with a U.S. Marine officer was wounded when a bomb exploded near his patrol in the Ash-Shuwayfat area, Jerusalem radio reported on 6 February. Meanwhile, the Israeli Cabinet decided to drop the idea of requesting a

U.S. apology over the U.S.-Israeli incident and Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir announced that the matter is closed, according to reports on Jerusalem radio. The Marine officer involved in the incident exuded "a strong smell of alcohol" and this may have affected his judgment, according to IDF sources cited by HA'ARETZ.

Lebanese sources said no real achievements should be expected from the 7 February Israeli-Lebanese talks at Khaldah, Jerusalem radio reported.

Syria

Israel recently stepped up its "threats" against Syria and has made "preparatory actions" in response to the strengthening of Syria's air defenses, a responsible Syrian source announced in a statement broadcast by Damascus television on 4 February. Israel's threats and preparations are accompanied by an increase in its intransigence in Lebanon, the statement added. Alerting Arab and international public opinion to the danger of an Israeli attack on Syria, the statement said Syria will take decisive measures to answer aggression and will regard any sabotage attacks against Syria as aggression.

In a related development, PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad reaffirmed to President Hafiz al-Asad the PDRY's "full and unlimited support" for Syria's steadfastness "at a time when all signs indicate that the Zionist enemy is likely to launch an aggression against it," according to a message from the PDRY leader to Al-Asad broadcast by Damascus radio.

The first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department, Karen Brutents, arrived in Damascus on 5 February and subsequently held talks with Ba'th Party Assistant Secretary General 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Damascus radio reported. According to KUNA, Brutents told the Lebanese weekly MONDAY MORNING that the Soviet Union's support for Syria is "extremely serious" and this will become apparent at a later time. Meanwhile, the Moscow papers PRAVDA and IZVESTIYA continued Soviet media warnings of an imminent Israeli attack on Syria.

PLO Affairs

Officials' Activities -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman on 7 February for talks with Jordan's King Husayn on coordinated Jordanian-Palestinian political initiatives in the Middle East, according to AFP. Meanwhile, PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum arrived in Algiers on 5 February to prepare for the 14 February PNC session and announced that 'Arafat will arrive in Algiers on 10 February, Algiers radio reported. Al-Fahum added that the invasion of Lebanon, the departure of Palestinian fighters from Beirut, the Reagan plan, and future relations between Jordan and the Palestinians will be among the main topics on the PNC agenda, the radio noted. In a related report, Fatah Central Committee member Khalil al-Wazir stated during a Damascus news conference that the PLO Military Council will submit to the PNC a military report containing part of a plan for unified action by the Palestinian leadership, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. Al-Wazir said that when this "important" plan is approved, the Palestinian revolution will have one military command and a united national army, the radio added.

On the issue of POW exchanges, Al-Wazir announced that the PLO demands the release of 1,000 Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons and 5,000 other detainees in Al-Ansar Camp, according to the radio.

Relations With Egypt -- PLO Executive Committee member Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani denied reports that contacts between the PLO and Egypt have stopped and stated that the decision on this issue has been left to 'Arafat, MENA reported. In a statement to the Egyptian magazine MAY, Ad-Dajani said Palestinian-Egyptian relations entered a new and important stage after the invasion of Lebanon, MENA added.

Egypt

Mubarak Diplomacy -- President Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo from Paris following his 10-day tour of the United States, Canada, Britain, and France, MENA reported. In a statement to journalists, Mubarak said it is hoped that Jordan's King Husayn and PLO leader 'Arafat will reach agreement so the United States will be able to use its influence to solve the Palestinian problems, MENA added.

In a related development Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz conveyed a message from President Mubarak to King Husayn in which the Egyptian leader made a comprehensive assessment of his recent talks with U.S., Canadian, British, and French leaders, Amman radio reported.

Relations With Israel -- Egypt has condemned Israeli "acts of suppression" against Arabs in Israel as violations of human rights and obstacles to peace, MENA reported citing Egypt's permanent delegate to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

Iraqi Jews

Iraq has recently allowed some members of the Iraqi Jewish community to regain hitherto sequestered property, Jerusalem television reported. It is unclear whether this constitutes a political signal by the Iraqi leaders, the television said.

Saudi-YAR Talks

YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih held talks in Jidda with Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Riyadh radio reported on 6 February. Salih said his visit to Saudi Arabia is aimed at developing and strengthening bilateral relations, SPA reported.

Maghreb Affairs

Algerian Internal Affairs -- The foreign press has been trying to confuse the Algerian people by spreading rumors of the arrest of public figures and high-ranking officers, according to an APS commentary reported by Algiers radio. In reality Algeria is "doing well and is doing even better" since it began a domestic purge to end "immoral practices" and improve economic management, APS stated. The purge revealed that foreign elements attempted to undermine the economy and encouraged "certain political currents under religious pretexts" unrelated to the ideals of Islam. "It is no accident" that the liquefied natural gas plant at Arzew has experienced difficulties, that certain small groups have assembled bombs and incited violence, and that a former high-ranking Algerian official released from confinement and now in exile is making "malevolent statements," the commentary added.

Algerian-Moroccan Border -- The Algerian-Moroccan border has reopened following the long closure caused by the Saharan dispute, KUNA reported citing the Moroccan press. A Moroccan opposition leader disclosed that preparations are underway for a meeting between Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Moroccan King Hassan II, KUNA added.

Further on Moroccan General's Death -- The precise circumstances of General Ahmed Dlimi's death on 25 January are still unclear and eyewitnesses report that grenades exploded in his car at the time of the "accident," LE MONDE reported. Several senior officers were arrested before Dlimi's death, LE MONDE said, and the army did not send the traditional condolence message to King Hassan II.

Afghanistan

Defense Minister Major General 'Abdol Qader left for Moscow on 4 February heading a military delegation on an official and friendly visit at the invitation of his Soviet counterpart Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov, Kabul radio reported. Meanwhile, a TASS commentary criticized President Reagan for receiving Afghan "hired terrorists" at the White House and claimed that the United States is not interested in a political settlement of the Afghan situation but rather seeks to continue the "undeclared war" against the DRA and to interfere in the internal affairs of the region.

DRA troops have freed 11 Soviet civilians recently kidnapped by rebels in the Mazar-e Sharif region, AFP reported citing a PTI report from Kabul. Four other Soviet captives were killed during the assault and two others were earlier killed by the kidnappers, the report disclosed.

Pakistan

Pakistan will ban public rallies and marches in August 1983 although indoor political meetings will still be permitted, Delhi radio's overseas service reported. President Ziaul Haq reportedly said outdoor rallies are a waste of time and disrupt normal life.

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PREPARATIONS CONTINUE FOR ALGIERS PNC MEETING

Al-Fahum Statement

LD062006 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] A meeting will be held in Algiers on 10 February which will include Yasir 'ARafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, secretaries general of Palestinian organizations, and senior officials of the PNC. PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum, who announced this in a statement to APS, said this meeting, which follows meetings in Aden, Damascus, and Tunis, will be devoted to preparing the 16th PNC session which is scheduled to open 14 February in Algiers.

He explained that all subjects studied in previous meetings will be discussed during this meeting. Also, final arrangements prior to convening the PNC will be made.

He added that the administrative council of the Palestinian National Fund will meet on 13 February to prepare the financial report which will be submitted to the PNC.

Khalid al-Fahum concluded his statement by noting that preparations for the PNC session took place in the best circumstances thanks to the cooperation of Algerian officials who provided all the facilities and made available all the necessary means for preparing this meeting.

Further on Agenda

LD070011 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Test] Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the PNC, has stated that the latest developments in the political and miltiary situation, the invasion of Lebanon, the departure of Palestinian fighters from Beirut, the Reagan plan, the plan approved by the Arab summit in Fes, and the future relations between Jordan and Palestine will be the main points on the agenda of the coming PNC session on 14 February in Algiers.

Khalid al-Fahum added in a statement to APS that relations between the Palestinian revolution and the Arab world, ways of strengthening the ties between the PLO and the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and the possibility of reinforcing military activity in these territories will also be studied.

With regard to the preparations and the procedure of the PNC session, Mr al-Fahum noted that the preparations have taken place in very good circumstances and that the final touches will be made during the meeting of Palestinian leaders on 10 February in Algiers.

Executive Committee To Meet

GF041942 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1812 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] An official Palestinian source in Damascus has said that the PLO Executive Committee will hold a meeting in the Algerian capital on 10 February before the PNC session on 14 February.

The source noted that the committee has invited the secretaries general of the Palestinian revolution factions, the PNC speaker, and a number of Palestinian leaders to participate in the expanded 2-day meeting to decide on the main issues to be included on the PNC's agenda.

KHALIL AL-WAZIR ON POW EXCHANGE, OTHER TOPICS

Release Terms Listed

JN051724 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] Brother Adu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has spelled out the PLO terms for exchanging eight Zionist soldiers with the enemy government. At a press conference in Damascus, Abu Jihad said that the PLO demands the release of 1,000 Palestinian Detainees in Israeli prisons and 5,000 other detainees in Al-Ansar camp in southern Lebanon. Abu Jihad said that the released detainees should be allowed to return to their homeland in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He added that the PLO has proposed Vienna as a venue for the exchange of the prisoners, who would be flown to the Austrian capital. Abu Jihad also said that these terms had been given to the International Committee of the Red Cross and to Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kriesky, who is currently visiting Washington.

Unified Army Planned

JN061756 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] At a meeting with the press in Damascus following a tour of the USSR, CSSR, and the GDR, Brother Abu Jihad, the deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces and a member of the Fatah Central Committee, has said that at the forthcoming session of the Palestinian revolution Higher Military Council will submit a military report containing part of a plan for unified action by the Palestinian leadership -- organization, bases, and units. He said that when this important plan is approved, the Palestinian revolution will have one military command and unified forces that have one system of armament, organization, administration, and services. He said that the Palestinian revolution would then have united armed forces and a united national army, to be called the Palestinian national liberation army.

Speaking about the results of his latest tour, Brother Abu Jihad said: Military officials in the countries we visited showed great interest in our concept about the current circumstances following the war in Lebanon as well as about the next political and military stage. They also showed great interest in cooperation required to strengthen and build the Palestinian military capability.

Dispute With Syria

GF051600 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 4 Feb 83 pp 10, 17

[Interview with Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces and Fatah Central Committee member, by AL-QABAS correspondent Khalil Taqi in Damascus -- no date given]

[Excerpt] [Question] What in your opinion is the nature and reality of the Palestinian-Syrian dispute, if in fact there is a dispute? How can this dispute be contained and treated?

[Answer] Our relations with the Syrian brothers are relations of brothers who stand in one trench. I want to say in advance, so that all hearts truly concerned with the question are assured, that neither we nor the brothers in Syria will resort to two opposite trenches. No matter what happens and irrespective of problems, although I don't want and it wouldn't be right for me to ignore the reality of the disagreements and differences that exist between us and the Syrian leadership, because such ignorance is not in the interest of the joint national and patriotic struggle.

On the other hand, all sincere voices call for continuously bolstering these relations in order to support Syria and the PLO in their confrontation with the Zionist enemy. I have said on more than one occasion that Damascus is a target for Israel as much as the Palestinian revolution itself. Is this danger not sufficient for us to unite and for differences and gaps to be eliminated in Syrian-Palestinian relations?

In reality there are no disputes in the broad meaning of the word, but there are differences in interpreting things as well as in the political steps. This is necessarily the result of the nature of relations and the alliance between the PLO and Syria. However, some people try to deepen these differences and convert them into disputes instead of trying to contain them and concentrate on the many common denominators that unite the PLO and Syria.

Before I outline some of the points of differences between us and Syria, it is necessary to stress that there is no choice before us -- and Syria -- except to remain in the same trench in confrontation against the same enemy -- imperialism and the Zionist enemy. Anything contrary to this will inflict the greatest harm on the Palestinian revolution and Syria.

I can summarize the differences since the Beirut siege in the following points:

1. The assessment of the situation during the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, and thus the extent of participation in the battles. I don't at this moment want to make something up, but I will recall what Syrian officials themselves said. This was: "Syria decided to confine the battle to Beirut and to participate with the forces it has there if the enemy decided to confine it there too." But the matter was different for the Palestinian revolution. We were under siege and in a difficult situation. We were anxious to open other good fighting fronts with the enemy in every possible position or axis.

2. The political move in the wake of the exit from Beirut on the Arab and international levels. Here too the difference is a result of the difference between our situation as a revolution and Syria's situation as a state. Without an active and broad political move to bolster the role of the loaded rifle, we will end up in a vacuum. This does not apply to Syria, which is a state that has borders, laws, a flag, an army, and diplomacy.

Within this framework, our relations with Syria aroused objections from the brothers in Syria as well as their objection to our exercise of politics on the international level. Add to this the misleading smoke bombs that some people exploded between the PLO and Syria concerning a claimed commission that the PLO was said to be giving to Jordan, the reasons for which Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] chose Tunis for his headquarters, and other matters.

Perhaps there are other points of differences, but I consider these two points to be the major ones. With a little effort and work we can overcome these differences. I believe that the features of the upcoming PNC program will be slogans that will unite everyone in the Palestinian arena.

During the meetings of the PNC, we may highlight the bases of our national action in the upcoming stage in a manner that will produce a Palestinian consensus that will explain to the brothers in Syria and the Arabs in their countries the nature and direction of our move. This direction has a spirit that aims at bolstering Arab relations with us because they constitute the wall that is indispensable for us.

SALAH KHALAF ON MILITARY OPTION, TIES WITH SYRIA

GF051530 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Feb (WAKH) -- Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, has stressed that the military option is the basic option for the Palestinian revolution until all the rights of the Palestinian people -- to return home, self-determination, and the establishment of the Palestinian state on their national soil -- have been achieved.

In interviews with the UAE papers AL-ITTIHAD and AL-KHALIJ published today, he noted that the slogan for the Palestinian state cannot be implemented in stages, warning that the slogan of the independent state is the start of restrictions. He added that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is the one most committed to the unified Palestinian political platform. Since he is the chairman of the PLO, he has the opportunity more than others to maneuver through Arab minefields.

Abu Iyad denied any relationship between the Palestinian-Jordanian talks on confederation and President Reagan's initiative calling for the establishment of an autonomous Palestinian government affiliated with Jordan. Associating the Reagan plan with our talk on confederation is an attempt by some people to drive a wedge among the Palestinians, but this attempt will not be successful, he said. We participate in every democratic dialogue with everyone in the PLO but not at its expense, he added. He pointed out that the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue begins and ends with the establishment of an independent Palestinian state which will establish the closest relations with Jordan, and this refutes any relationship between our dialogue with Jordan and the Reagan plan.

Concerning Palestinian-Syrian relations, Salah Khalaf stressed that the PLO realizes the meaning, importance, and priority of relations with Syria. He denied any political difference between the Palestinian revolution and Syria. He welcomed the dialogue with Syria for coordination on many issues, stressing that the stance of Syria and the PLO will become stronger.

He called for efforts to get Egypt back to the Arabs and not to get the Arabs back to Egypt. Egypt still follows and adheres to the Camp David line, he said.

Regarding the invitation to Yasir 'Arafat by Egyptian progressive and national forces and parties to visit Egypt, he said: This visit will not take place because it would elicit many explanations and would increase current confusion.

Abu Iyad described the Palestinian revolution's relations with Lebanese authorities as cyclic [mansimiyah] because the Lebanese authorities are now busy with negotiations. He said: We do not want to worsen the situation through criticism and statements because he who criticizes has to offer an alternative.

He expressed his welcome for any step that leads to the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon on the condition that what happened to the Palestinian people in Sabra and Shatila will not recur.

Concerning the Soviet stand in view of statements by some Palestinian leaders that this stand during the war in Beirut was not enough, Salah Khalaf said: The PLO expected the Soviet stand to be stronger than it was. However, after the resistance's exit from Beirut, we realized that the Soviet Union cannot become more Arab than the Arabs themselves and that the difference between the Soviet stand and the U.S. stand is one between a friend and an enemy.

Abu Iyad affirmed that continued U.S. hostility to the Palestinian people's aspirations and their right to self-determination and its hostility to the PLO's is a firm U.S. stand which is not affected by whoever is in the White House, be he Carter, or anyone else. In this regard, he noted that the visit by Khalid al-Hasan, political adviser to the PLO Executive Committee chairman, to Washington within the seven-member committee revealed the nature of the U.S. stand for the Arabs who are putting all the chips in the hands of the United States.

Abu Iyad stressed the need and significance of continued contacts with anti-Zionist Jewish elements in occupied Palestine. It is one of the fronts on which we have to fight on the condition that the issue of contacts should be studied with care and that a comprehensive visualization of their level, timing, and nature should be made so as not to disrupt national unity, Abu Iyad said.

QNA CITES 'PALESTINIAN SOURCE' ON SOCIALIST AID

GF041930 Doha QNA in Arabic 1855 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] Damascus, 4 Feb (QNA) -- A responsible Palestinian source described the visit that Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in the chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, made to the Soviet Union and a number of the countries of the Eastern bloc as successful and as leading to positive results in the interest of the Palestinian question.

In a statement to the QNA correspondent in Damascus, the source said that Abu Jihad discussed with officials in the countries he visited the current military situation in the Palestinian arena and the possibility of these countries participating in arming and training the Palestinian revolution forces. He indicated that the leaders of these countries expressed full readiness to offer what the revolution requires in military and financial aid.

Khalil al-Wazir returned to Damascus yesterday evening following a 1-week visit to the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and the GDR.

It is worth noting that a number of revolution forces and Palestine Liberation Army troops are currently undergoing military training in the GDR.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES FOREIGN VISITORS IN TUNIS

Socialist International Delegation

LD051158 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had a meeting with the Socialist International delegation headed by Mario Soares, vice president of the society and chairman of the Portuguese Socialist Party, in Tunis last night. The 4-hour meeting dealt with the most prominent developments of the Middle East issue and relations between the Palestinian revolution and the Socialist International. Soares acquainted the Palestinian leader with the results of the fact-finding tour he is currently making in some countries.

After the meeting Yasir 'Arafat made a statement in which he mentioned that the Socialist International delegation has come during important and grave conditions relating to the situation in the Middle East. It is working to find a peaceful and just solution for the Palestinian question through granting the Palestinian people their legitimate rights.

Yasir 'Arafat said: For more than 30 years the Palestinian people have been subjected to an overwhelming plot. They have been driven out of their land, and this has not happened to any other people.

He also said: We are very happy to meet with Soares and are trying to work together to find suitable conditions to settle our just cause. Our talks have been totally satisfactory. We will be meeting again to discuss the question of the path to peace.

PLO Invited to Conference

LD052342 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] The PLO has received an official invitation to attend the general conference of the league of the Socialist International scheduled to be held in Australia in April. It has been learned that a delegation of the league currently visiting Tunisia and led by Mario Soares, the former Portuguese prime minister and vice president of the league, conveyed the invitation to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, during their meeting yesterday in Tunis.

Iraqi, Djibouti Diplomats

JN051744 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received at his headquarters in Tunis the Iraqi charge d'affaires and discussed the political situation in the Arab region in general and the Palestinian developments in particular. 'Arafat also received the ambassador of Djibouti, who reiterated his country's support for the Palestinian revolution and just struggle. He conveyed greetings and good wishes from the president of Djibouti to Brother Abu 'Ammar and the Palestinian revolution and said he hoped that the Palestinian revolution would emerge victorious under the PLO. The ambassador gave Brother Abu 'Ammar some money as a token of thesolidarity of the people of Djibouti with the Palestinian people and their just struggle.

PLO RADIO ON RESEARCH CENTER EXPLOSION IN BEIRUT

JN061816 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] A Palestinian revolution responsible information source has stated the following:

The Palestine Research Center [in Beirut] was the target of a criminal act. The explosion of a boobytrapped car near the scientific center was perpetrated by the treacherous Zionist enemy. The incident killed more unarmed innocent Lebanese and Palestinians. This barbaric incident led to the martyrdom of four Palestinian researchers, among whom were Hanni Shahin and Sana' 'Awdah as well as several Lebanese security and police members who were guarding this scientific center.

Once again the Israeli occupation forces are attempting to destroy Palestinian educational institutions. The explosion destroyed most of the contents of the center and burned the valuable Palestinian library, which had already been ransacked by the Zionist forces. The researchers had been able to rebuild and recover 75 percent of the library although the stolen books are still in the possession of the Zionist occupation forces.

We hold the Zionist occupation forces and their agents in Lebanon fully responsible. We also call on the Lebanese Government and the U.S., French, and Italian multinational forces to protect Palestinian educational institutions and innocent Palestinian citizens in accordance with signed agreements. We also call on international public opinion to end these barbaric and inhuman practices which are planned and carried out by the Israeli occupation forces, whose hands are already stained with the blood of the women and children of Sabra and Shatila refugee camps.

PRESIDENT MUBARAK RETURNS TO CAIRO 4 FEB

Statements Aboard Plane

NC042148 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2043 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has announced that in the course of his trip to the United States, Canada, England, and France, he explained the situation in the Middle East as well as the need for achieving a quick solution to the Palestinian problem and to Middle East issues.

President Mubarak said he warned that the situation in the Middle East is grave. Furthermore, the Iraqi-Iranian war might draw the area to a disaster.

The above statements were made by President Mubarak on the results of his tour to the chief editors of the national newspapers and to the MENA [board of directors] chairman while in the plane on his way back to Cairo from Paris.

In his statements, President Mubarak advised the Palestinians and Jordan to act rapidly and to agree on a unified Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. He said: By so doing, we will put the ball in the court of the U.S. side, which has promised that it would then move rapidly.

President Mubarak elucidated in his statements that during his tour he expounded the Egyptian viewpoint. He said: I have spoken frankly -- and there can be no more frankness than that with which I made my explanations.

He added: We hold the view that once the Lebanese issue is solved, then discussions will immediately begin on President Reagan's initiative.

President Mubarak announced that the U.S. side has promised to send U.S. envoy Philip Habib to the area soon with some specific proposals for the resolution of the Palestinian issue.

Asked about his impression that the Lebanese problem and the Palestinian problem will soon be solved, he said: I will not be reassured and we will not be able to speak of impressions until after we have achieved specific solutions.

In his statements, President Mubarak spoke of the results of the tour from the economic perspective. He said: We have agreed with the U.S. side on the allocations of $1.25 billion over 5 years for water and sewage projects in Cairo and Alexandria.

President Mubarak added: The British have promised to study some important projects and to make a decision on financing these projects. Furthermore, the Canadian side has promised to study increasing Canadian imports from Egypt.

In his statements, President Mubarak announced that the French are now studying the possibility of giving Egypt greater facilities to finance the two nuclear stations for which Egypt signed a purchase contract with France.

President Mubarak emphasized that the tour has produced important economic results, in addition to [results] in the realm of bilateral cooperation between Egypt and the countries that he has visited during his tour.

President Mubarak also asserted that Egypt adheres to the recently endorsed 5-year plan and that there will be neither a foresaking of nor laxity in adhering scrupulously to the projects that come under the plan. He said: It is imperative that expenditure be rationalized and that we work with our full capability to increase exports.

In concluding his statements, President Mubarak affirmed that he has no intention, nor does he wish to make any extraordinary decision. He said he stands for further democracy, provided we all keep to the national interests and to the interests of our people's broad majority.

Comments at Cairo Airport

NC041832 Cairo MENA in English 1825 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, Feb 4 (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak returned home tonight from Paris.

President Mubarak said that the United States would work on effecting a pull-out from Lebanon as quickly as possible and was currently studying all available solutions in this connection.

The president, who was speaking to pressmen at Cairo international airport about the outcome of the talks he had had with the leaders of the countries he toured, said that the talks covered the Palestine and Lebanon issues.

As for the Palestinian issue, President Mubarak said, it was hoped that King Husayn of Jordan and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat would reach a solution, so that the United States would be able to use its influence to solve the Palestinian problem. President Mubarak expressed optimism about the possibility of reaching a solution in this regard.

President Mubarak said he feels that he conveyed an honest message to the United States and to various American officials so that they comprehend the situation as it really exists as regards the pull-out from Lebanon, the Palestine issue and the Iraq-Iran war.

Asked whether he could give the Palestinians some hope for their forthcoming meeting in Algiers, President Mubarak said such a hope was needed, but he is waiting for King Husayn and the Palestinians to reach something specific.

An association between Jordan and the Palestinians would enable the United States to step up its efforts and bring its influence to bear in this connection, he added.

The Egyptian president had left Cairo on January 26 for a ten-day tour that took him to the United States, Canada, Britain, and France.

AR-RA'Y: ARAB RELATIONS TO RESUME SOON

JN060806 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] Cairo -- exclusive -- According to well-informed sources in Cairo, the resumption of Arab diplomatic relations with Cairo is imminent, particularly since the Lebanese Government has already named 'Abd ar-Rahman as-Sulh as its future ambassador in Cairo.

Egyptian sources confirm that As-Sulh's appointment as the Lebanese ambassador in Cairo is an important result of the rapprochement between Egypt and the Arab countries according to which some Arab countries, including Lebanon, are now about to resume full diplomatic relations with Egypt.

GENEVA DELEGATE CONDEMNS ISRAELI SUPPRESSION

NC041321 Cairo MENA in English 1255 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] Geneva, 4 Feb (MENA) -- Egypt condemned today Israeli acts of suppression against the Arab inhabitants of the occupied lands as violations of human rights and obstacles to peace.

Egypt's permanent delegate to the United Nations quarters in Geneva, 'Abd ar-Ra'uf ar-Ridi, told the U.N. Human Rights Commission that the most serious violation of human rights of late was the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

The Egyptian delegate supported the commission's report that the violations of human rights in the occupied land would not stop until the Palestinians exercised their right to self-determination.

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN ON SUPPORT FOR IRAQ

JN041200 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] Paris, 4 Feb (INA) -- Dr Mamduh al-Baltaji, the Egyptian Government's official spokesman, has affirmed that his country is unwavering in its support of Iraq and is rendering all brotherly help possible, without any conditions attached, out of Egypt's genuine feeling of Arab belonging.

In an exclusive statement to the INA correspondent in Paris last night, Dr al-Baltaji said that Egypt believes in the need for and importance of reaching a peaceful solution to [Iraqi-Iranian] conflict through good offices, mediation, and negotiations because this conflict between two Islamic countries threatens Arab Gulf security and invites the intervention of foreign forces.

The spokesman asserted that Cairo is handling the issue of the Iraqi-Iranian war from the principle of support and solidarity and is interpreting this stand on all levels whether summit meeting level or diplomatic and political levels.

On Egypt's relations with Arab countries, Dr al-Baltaji said that Egypt welcomes all Arab countries, Dr al-Baltaji said that Egypt welcomes all Arab brothers, but it will not force anyone else to do so. Egypt, he added, leaves it for the brothers to assess the circumstances. He said that his country is not isolated and its tie with the Arab nation has never been cut. He emphasized that the last stage has been characterized by extreme intensification of efforts.

Dr al-Baltaji had accompanied President Mubarak on his visits to the United States, Canada, Britain, and France.

PARIS AL-MUSTAQBAL ON RELATIONS WITH USSR

JN051446 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1425 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] Paris, 5 Feb (INA) -- The weekly AL-MUSTAQBAL today affirms that the exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and the USSR has now become a foregone issue. Citing an informed diplomatic source, the magazine says that the exchange of ambassadors will most likely take place before the convening of the nonaligned summit conference in New Delhi in March.

It should be recalled that Egyptian-Soviet relations have improved relatively, as was demonstrated by the meeting of the joint committee for economic and technical cooperation.

HUSAYN INTERVIEWED ON DELAYED IRANIAN OFFENSIVE

JN061654 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Feb (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn has said that the Tehran rulers have implicated themselves in aims which cannot be achieved. He emphasized that their forthcoming offensive will be definite suicide for their forces.

In an important and comprehensive interview with INA today on the situation at the battlefronts with the Iranian enemy, he stressed that the military situation has radically changed in favor of Iraq. He pointed out that the Iranians completed their preparations for an offensive a month ago. However, he added, the military commanders are apprehensive of the offensive and do not want to assume responsibility for it because they realize this offensive is doomed to fail.

President Saddam Husayn said: The information we received indicates that the military wants to hold the politicians responsible for the offensive, whereas the politicians, in turn, want to push the military to launch the offensive in accordance with a military and not a political decision. He indicated that the increase in our preparations, including an increase in fortifications and our ability to maneuver with units, made the Iranian military apprehensive of such an offensive. Accordingly, he said, we can attribute the delay in the Iranian offensive to hesitation which is legitimate from the military point of view.

President Saddam Husayn affirmed that the Iraqi leadership is now determined not only to foil the Iranian offensive, but also to completely annihilate the attacking force and capture those who do not wish to fight. He added that this aims at imposing a special political and military situation which will make those planning this adventure pay a heavy price for the offensive in front of the Iranian people who are afflicted by them.

The president pointed out that our long defensive war has given the field commanders extraordinary experience in providing the necessary requirements and factors to ensure the success of the defensive war before the enemy attacks, and to ensure the success of the defensive war by the way the battle is run.

On his expectations about the area of the new offensive, President Saddam Husayn said that the enemy is concentrating its forces in the Maysan sector. He added: Nevertheless, we are maintaining an even balance of our army in all operational sectors at a time when we are maneuvering with units, as required, in favor of the Maysan sector. He said: We have prepared all that is necessary to crush this offensive and bury the wicked adventure at birth.

He said that the Iranians chose this sector for their offensive, believing that it might be easier than the other sectors because its defensive arrangements came later. He asserted that they are mistaken in their calculations because the Iraqi units' defensive arrangements have turned this sector into a fortified citadel on which their foolish plots will founder. He added that the reinforcement of the Iraqi strongholds and defenses in this sector were among the factors which delayed the Iranian offensive.

Asked why Iraqi artillery has not shelled Iranian citizens, President Saddam Husayn said the Iraqi forces have avoided shelling civilian targets since the very beginning of the war. This principle was closely followed when the Iranian opposition appealed to the Iraqi leadership to refrain from direct deterrence. The leadership responded to this appeal.

His excellency said that the Iranian leadership does not care about its people. It wants us to respond to its strikes on Iraqi civilian targets in the same manner so it can rally the Iranian people around its evil and hostile designs.

The president affirmed that Iraq is in a position to destroy major Iranian cities with its air force and rockets.

President Saddam Husayn said that Iraq is now superior to Iran in the intelligence field. The enemy, he said, can no longer surprise us or hide any important information from us.

The president explained that the positive relationship between Iraq and an important section of the Iranian people and opposition has played an important role in giving us an insight into the enemy's intentions. This new situation, he added, has created a common objective between Iraq and the suppressed Iranian people and opposition. This common objective is that everyone wants to stop the war and build peaceful relations between Iraq and Iran.

The following is text of the important interview which President Saddam Husayn gave to INA:

The leader President Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the armed forces, this morning gave an important and comprehensive interview to INA in which he dealt with the present position on the battlefronts between our country and the aggressive Iranian enemy.

The following is the text of the agency's questions and the leader president's answers:

Question one: Mr President, from time to time the Iranian enemy shells our border towns. The last evil act it committed was its shelling of the town of Mandali. Would Your Excellency give us the reasons which prevent us from retaliating, which is our legitimate right?

The president: Since the beginning of the war, we have been avoiding civilian targets as much as possible. This principle was further upheld when the Iranian opposition appealed to us to refrain from direct deterrence. We responded to the appeal, because we support it in principle. But the Iranian leadership does not care about its own people. As a matter of fact, it wants us to respond to its strikes on Iraqi civilian targets in the same manner so it can rally the Iranian people around its evil ambitions and hostile designs. We can, if we want, destroy major Iranian cities with our air force and rockets, but we want them to lose their nerve and patience and make stupid mistakes to the point where we can crush their major power.

Question two: How do you explain the Iranians' delay in carrying out their offensive; and, have they completed their preparations for this?

The president: Their final preparations for the offensive were completed about a month ago, including reconnaissance details and operational and mobilizational requirements. But the Iranian military commanders are apprehensive of this offensive. They do not want to assume responsibility for it, because bhey realize that it is doomed to failure, especially since these commanders know that the Iraqi command knows all the details of their plans, including the axes approved for the offensive. These commanders are under pressure from suspect political leaders, such as Montazeri and Rafsanjani, who believe that the offensive would enhance their positions.

According to the information available to us, the military commanders want to hold the politicians responsible for the attack. On the other hand, the politicians are urging the military commanders to go ahead with the offensive, provided the decision for the attack is a military decision and not a political one.

Our increased preparations in fortifications and the ability to maneuver units have made the Iranian military apprehensive of this offensive. Therefore, we believe that the delay in the Iranian offensive so far is due to the Iranian military's legitimate hesitation. However, our knowledge of the mentality of the Iranian officials and the influences and interventions of the foreign forces in their ranks, as well as the Iranian officials' absolute ignorance of the military facts and requirements, make us believe that the offensive will take place. But it will be stillborn. Our forces will inflict the heaviest losses on the invading enemy forces and will not allow them to achieve any results, including those of a purely propaganda nature which the Iranian rulers always seek whenever they fail to achieve any strategic objectives in the interior of our country

For a long time their concentration has enabled us to shell real targets, to inflict heavy losses in their ranks, and to make despair spread in the hearts of both the regulars and irregulars.

They have committed themselves to objectives which they cannot achieve. Their next offensive will be definite suicide for their forces.

As you know, we are not rambling. Every work we say is based on our full responsibility to the Iraq people. Here lies our self-confidence.

Question three: Could Your Excellency draw a comparison between the forces and preponderant influential factors available to both combatant sides; that is, us and the Iranian Enemy?

The president: There is no room now to draw a complete and detailed comparison between the forces and preponderant factors available to the Iraqi and Iranian sides. As a matter of fact, it is impermissible to tackle all factors in detail, including the relative strength, because we are still at war with the enemy. It is impermissible to reveal military secrets which might benefit the enemy.

Still, it is all right to mention some of these factors in passing to give the Iraqis and idea of an important aspect of this picture. Therefore, we say that the military situation now has changed radically in our favor.

Actually, this improvement began after we returned to our international border. The reasons are as follows:

First, our communication lines were long. This resulted in the following:

1. The difficulty of moving forces from one operational sector to another in view of the restrictions which were imposed on us. Those forces had to be moved inside enemy territory and under circumstances which lacked the support of our territorial defenses. This necessitated the presence of forces outside our territories at night, contrary to what is happening now. At present, our forces are inside our territories and are moved by day or night in accordance with the requirements of the situation.

2. Our forces did not pay much attention to fortifications and defense positions when they were inside enemy territory. The situation is different now. In the past, they knew that their presence on enemy territory was only temporary.

3. When communication lines are long inside enemy territory, especially in a protracted war, this becomes a burden on the army with regard to the security of its units and communication lines. This creates a favorable situation for the enemy, because field command positions and communication lines become subject to disruption, and various units are exposed to isolation and containment, especially when the enemy resorts to indirect attack tactics. The enemy, in fact, exploited these loopholes in such a way that we were forced in the end to allocate large unites to cover these loopholes. But this was at the expense of other units which were needed to defend frontline positions. Even then, these loopholes were not, and could not, all be covered in such a situation -- that is the situation of static defense -- and with the depth in which our army was deployed in enemy territory, especially when those units which were assigned this duty oftan came from reservists who had not taken part in any army maneuvers before the war. As a matter of fact, the reserve units themselves, and in view of the enemy's ability to take them from the rear, turned into a burden for the army. They lacked a sufficient number of men to form a combatant force with their own commands and traditions. Now, however, we have provided them with all the means to defend the frontlines. They have also gained experience in the art of war.

We will now review the other factors which have greatly contributed to the improvement of the balance of power in our favor.

Second, the fellings of the soldier while defending his land are different from his feelings when defending his rights and lands 80 km inside enemy territory. Regardless of the circumstances and reasons which made our forces chase the enemy forces to this depth, and regardless of the importance of the land gained by our fighter when forced to defend his lands and cities, which have a limited depth as is well known, we must say that the feelings of the Iraqi soldier now, particularly since he has understood in detail the aggressiveness of the Tehran regime and its expanionist ambitions against Iraq's lands, are different from his feelings when he was defending his land from positions inside enemy territory.

The Iranian regime gave tangible evidence of its expansionist ambitions against our land when it launched its abortive attacks on our forces east of Basra, Mandali, and Maysan, despite our withdrawal to the international borders, making use of these abortive attacks to frankly and repeatedly announce its aggressiveness and expansionist ambitions. However, the unprofessional soldiers, and by this I mean the reserves and draftees in particular, need to have a direct conviction when fighting, particularly in a long war. Now, all elements of this are available to them in a tangible and detailed manner since they are different from those professional troops who are fighting to carry out their duties in light of their command's concepts and plans.

Our soldiers are now defending Iraq's land. They are standing on Iraq's land and not in front of it. Despite the fact that defending the target from a position that is in front of it is better than defending it from a position that is on it or behind it, this reality -- particularly after the basic links of the enemy army, which could penetrate to such an extent which threatens to upset our strategic preparations, were destroyed -- has changed the psychology of the fighter and made him feel better. The contrary happened with the enemy. Those Iranians and non-Iranians who were unaware of the true aggressive nature of the enemy are now aware of this nature, especially after the Iranian regime continued its aggression despite our withdrawal to the international borders.

There is no doubt this has negatively reflected on the Iranian fighters and volunteers. This has influenced their enthusiasm and their number is now smaller than before. Moreover, the exposure of the Iranian regime's hostile policy has positively influenced world public opinion in our favor. It has also affected news media centers, except those serving the Zionist circles and other quarters antagonizing our country due to special considerations.

Third, among the central factors which influenced the balance of power in our favor is that the Iranians were fighting on their land using all the means they know. They used the waters of the Karkheh and its tributaries and the Kuran to carry out combat surprises against our units. They surrounded our units and our rear lines with sufficient people and agents to give them accurate information about our army and its positions. Now the situation is much different. When they cross our border to carry out a military operation, they face unknown land and people that are surprises to them. Our units exploit this fact to inflict massive losses. No matter how much general information is known about the land, a major part of the mobilizational details, which have a considerable effect on the results of the war, remains known only to the people of the country and not strangers.

These were the circumstances when they tried to cross our border east of Basra, Mandali, and Maysan. Their circumstances will be extremely bad if our people endure the adoption of the tidal defense [ad-difa' at-tayyar] concept in some Iraqi land. This concept sometimes requires dragging the enemy deep into selected death areas in order to destroy his force or besiege him and make him surrender.

Fourth, a portracted war is experience for our commanders, especially when they stay in the same places of responsibility. Thus, when we select them for higher posts, it is on the basis of their successful war experience. Our long defensive war has enabled our commanders to gain extraordinary experience in guaranteeing the requirements and factors of success even before the enemy attacks. They have gained experience in successfully running the war.

Our army commanders who have been through this war experience, whether at a higher or lower level of responsibility, are now in a better position than a year ago to perform every aspect of their duties.

Fifth, the long front inside enemy territory and our limited artillery resources at that time put us in a position in which we could not guarantee the necessary fire power; by this we mean fieldguns of a special type to face a certain type of enemy. These fieldguns were essential for our defense, and firepower is a decisive factor, as you know.

Now that our communication lines are shorter, however, our artillery and other resources have increased and our defensive positions have been established in our territory, with all the details we know about it and about the territory in front of us and on which we once stood. All these factors put us in a better position than before. We are now able to organize our firing plans with great flexibility in maneuvering and pouring lethal fire on the suspicious, arrogant enemy.

Sixth, for these and other reasons, including the Iranian enemy's possession of technical means which enabled him to obtain accurate information about our units, means which we lacked earlier in the war -- for instance, the enemy had surveillance planes while we did not have such planes for well-known reasons -- and the fact that our intelligence service has gained more experience and we now have the necessary means to facilitate intelligence work, the enemy is no longer superior to us in intelligence work.

We have been superior to him in this field for a long time now, including the period of the abortive offensives.

Thus the enemy is no longer in a position to surprise us or conceal any important information from us. The positive relationship between us and a major part of the Iranian people and opposition, especially since our forces' withdrawal to the international border -- I say this relationship has played a real role in giving us an insight into enemy designs. This is because the new situation has created a common objective between us and the suppressed Iranian people and opposition. Everyone wants to stop the war and build peace relations between Iraq and Iran.

Question: What is Your Excellency's comment on reports in Western media which have been indicating for several weeks that the Iranian enemy has completed his concentration and is ready to begin a new adventure against Iraq's territory, people, and army? Where are their concentrations now, and what is your comment on the conflicting reports about an imminent attack?

The president: We have definite information, to the last detail, that the enemy's main concentrations are now in the Maysan sector, although the enemy has not withdrawn his forces facing our army in other sectors. This is natural because the war is still raging. Each side watches the movements of its opponent's units so as to maintain a balanced strength in case of any surprising developments in this or that operational sector.

Therefore, we maintain a balanced strength of our army in all operational sectors while at the same time maneuvering with other units as necessary in favor of the Maysan sector. At any rate, we have definite information that the decision made by the officials in Iran is that the main thrust of their new adventure will be east of Maysan. We have made all the necessary preparations to crush this attack and nip their evil adventure in the bud. Our determination and that of the command and the armed forces now is not only to foil the attack and prevent it from it from achieving its evil, hostile objectives -- which is a certainty, God willing - but to completely annihilate the attacking force or capture those who do not want to continue fighting so we can impose on those responsible for these adventure a certain political and military situation which would make them pay heavily before the Iranian people, who were stricken by them.

Question: Mr President, why did they choose Maysan and not another sector?

The president: We know a great deal about their intentions. Some forces are daily trying to make them choose certain sectors and portraying calculations. They tell them such and such option is better than another. I do not want to go into further details as they might shed light on our information sources. However, military circumstances allow us to say that they believed the attack on this sector would perhaps be easier, because the defense preparations came late. But they are mistaken in their calculations. The defense preparations for our units have turned this sector into an impregnable fortress on which their reckless plots will be wrecked, God willing. The strengthening of our fortifications and defenses in this sector was among the factors which delayed their offensive.

Furthermore, they have failed miserably in all sectors. Therefore, when they continue their aggression, they are repeating their attacks. What made them choose this sector for their repeated attack is that they thought they could cut the Basra-Baghdad road. I do not know how they could come up with such a ridiculous idea. To cut this highway, enemy units would have to be on it and in a position to control it by direct fire.

A highway cannot be out by the mere fact that it is within the range of certain long-range guns. For a highway to be controlled by tank fire, for instance, the tank units concerned must be not more than 3 km away. In some areas the Basra-Baghdad road is very close to the border and within the reach of Iranian long-range artillery. Still, certain mobilizational difficulties prevent the enemy from opening up such fire. Even if he overcomes the mobilization difficulties, artillery shelling will be useless. This is well known to the Iranian military. They know that our own fire reaches many of their main roads without cutting them off. For instance, our guns can reach the Al-Muhammarah-Ahvaz highway.

The Iranian military, according to our information, is unenthusiastic about repeating its attacks on Iraqi lands because it knows beyond doubt that such attempts will be doomed to failure. The Iranians are aware of the massive losses which will be inflicted on them without gaining any significant result. They might want, under pressure from the politicians, to concentrate on this sector in order to send some of their artillery to a place from which they can fire on the Basra-Baghdad road so that they can tell the politicians that they have cut the Basra-Baghdad road. Due to their stupidity and ignorance, the Tehran politicians could be deceived by such talk. However, we definitely say that, God willing, they will not be able to reach the Baghdad-Maysan road or control it with their fire. Once they try their army and all suspect expansionist aggressors will be buried.

We have no complexes towards discussing any logical issues theoretically so that the citizens and the public can be aware of these facts. Let us assume that the Iranians approach a point from which some of their artillery shells reach the road, which would make people unable to use it at certain points, particularly in daytime. Can we not avoid these points by turning away from this road, whether east or west of the river? Can we not use other roads extending from the farthest north to the farthest south to reach Basra? These facts reveal the large defect overtaking the Iranian rulers' mentalities and the deadly stupidity overwhelming the minds of their politicians with regard to war or life affairs.

In any case, he who fails to reach Basra and Mandali, although these are nearer the border than the Basra-Baghdad road, will also fail to reach this road and be buried in the attempt. The Iranian rulers should learn from these lessons before making rash statements and having empty dreams. They should resort to logic, care for their people, avoid bloodshed, and return to the path of peace.

Question: Mr President, how do you explain Khomeyni's present refraining from talking about war and crossing the Iraqi border, as he used to do?

The president: As we have said, Khomeyni is a maneuvering and backward politician and not a man of religion as some may imagine. Therefore, after trying the luck of his statements in the abortive offensive against Basra, Khomeyni became more conservative. He began to ask others in power and in his gang or those who might be deluded, like Rafsanjani and Montazeri, to make statements on this subject in an attempt to acquit himself of failure once the failure takes place. Meanwhile, Montazeri imagines that such statements might bring him closer to leadership after Khomeyni's death. Rafsanjani imagines that the continuation of war is the main factor for his continuation in his present position and for reaching higher positions in the religious institution and authority so that he can peddle his suspect scheme against the Iranian peoples and some stupid elements in the Iranian leadership in favor of the suspect circles.

REPORTS ON IRANIAN BATTLE LOSSES 4-7 FEBRUARY

Communique No 986

JN041622 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Feb (INA) -- The armed forces have inflicted human and material losses on the Iranian forces. These losses amounted to nine killed in the Maysan and central sectors and one medium machinegun destroyed east of Basra. Communique No 986, issued here this evening by the Armed Forces General Command, added that the Iranian regime today shelled the city of Mandali and its outskirts with artillery, wounding one civilian and damaging four houses. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 986 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The war imposed on our country by the criminal enemy today entered its 29th month at a time when the sons of our people and valiant armed forces are continuing their legitimate defense and repulsion of the Khomeyniite aggressors and their expansionist ambitions against great Iraq and the large Arab homeland. The results of the activities carried out in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded the enemy positions and concentrations opposite our positions in the Maysan sector, killing four and wounding others.

2. Four were killed in the central sector of the battlefield.

3. One was killed and one medium machinegun destroyed east of Basra.

4. Today, the vile clique ruling Iran intermittently shelled the city of Mandali and its outskirts with artillery. The savage enemy shelling wounded one civilian and damaged four houses.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 4 February

Communique No 987

JN051710 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Communique No 987 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 5 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To fend off evil and aggression, our brave armed forces continued their daring operations in the operational sectors against the suspect racist rulers in Tehran and Qom. The following are the results for last night and today.

1. Our forward units pounded an enemy concentration in the Maysan operational sector, killing nine enemy personnel and destroying one gun. Our formations in the same sector attacked an enemy troop concentration, killing or wounding a number of enemy personnel and destroying two infantry positions and killing all personnel manning them.

2. Using various types of weapons, our forward units attacked a column of enemy vehicles east of Basra, destroying 25 vehicles.

3. One observation post was destroyed in the central operational sector.

4. Using artillery, the criminal Khomeyniite clique last night and today shelled Mandali, leaving two civilians wounded and a number of houses damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 February 1983

Communique No 988

JN061714 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Communique No 988 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 6 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant armed forces are continuing their activities in the operational sectors against the forces of the enemy which persists in evil, arrogance, and aggression. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded the enemy positions and concentrations opposite our positions in the Maysan sector, killing five, wounding others, and destroying and setting fire to one 106-mm artillery piece. One of our forward units also clashed with a group of enemy troops opposite our positions in the same sector, inflicting losses in personnel and equipment.

2. Our valiant air force today launched bold raids against the enemy positions and concentrations in the areas opposite our forward positions in the Maysan sector, scoring direct and effective hits and inflicting further losses. All our aircraft returned safely to base.

3. Two were killed and one infantry position and one hardware stockpile were destroyed east of Basra.

4. One was killed in the central sector of the battlefield.

5. The spiteful Khomeyniite enemy today continued its intermittent artillery shelling of the city of Mandali and the village of Zurbatiyah, killing two civilians, wounding one citizen, and damaging a house in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 February

Communique No 989

JN070639 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0629 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Communique No 989 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 7 February]

[Text] We did them no wrong, but they were used to doing wrong to themselves. [Koranic verse]

After midnight on 6 February 1983, the enemy launched a wide-scale offensive on our steadfast units in the Ash-Shib region. Our valiant units succeeded in checking the enemy and in containing and completely destroying its offensive. Only those who fled the battlefield or fell captive were saved. The enemy failed to seize a single inch of land.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 February 1983

Communique No 990

JN071150 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1101 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Communique No 990 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 7 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Taste ye the penalty because ye blashemed. [Koranic verse]

O great Iraqi people; O brave sons of our armed forces wherever you may be; O heroes in the Maysan operational sector: Within the framework of the expansionist designs the suspect Kohmeyni regime has in proud Iraq and the great Arab homeland, and motivated by the imperialist and Zionist forces and the Arab nation's traitors like Hafiz al-Asad and Al-Qadhdhafi, the treacherous enemy once again tried its stumbling luck to cross our international borders and desecrate our sacred soil. The enemy attacked our heroic units in two stages: The first, was after midnight on 6-7 February, and the second at 0700 today. The attacking forces, which consisted of two infantry and armored divisions as well as Khomeyni guards and volunteers, was completely destroyed. The armored column which formed part of the attacking enemy forces and which consisted of tanks, carriers, and various vehicles, was also destroyed.

A number of serviceable tanks, carriers, and vehicles were also seized.

Thus, the first wave of the enemy offensive on the Ash-Shib area in the IV Army Corps sector has been completely destroyed. The enemy's subsequent waves, which are being dispatched in accordance with the enemy's announcements, will be destroyed in any other part of the Maysan operational sector.

Hundreds of enemy POW's have been moved to the rear lines. The gathering and evacuation of the enemy POW's were still continuing when this communique was prepared.

God is great, glory to victorious and dear Iraq.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 February 1983

REPORT SAYS IRANIAN POW'S MOVED TO REAR LINES

JN070915 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Maysan, southern Iraq, 7 Feb (INA) -- An urgent dispatch by an INA correspondent in the Ash-Shib region has stated that hundreds of Iranian POW's were moved to the rear lines this morning. The INA correspondent said that other batches of Iranian POW's are now being gathered in the Maysan operational sector prior to moving them to the rear lines.

The correspondent pointed out that some of the Iranian troops, who fell captive at the start of the abortive offensive after midnight last night, were wounded. The Iraqi medical teams have dressed their wounds and they will be moved from the battlefield along with the other POW's.

PLO'S 'ARAFAT ARRIVES, MAKES STATEMENT 7 FEB

JN071028 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman this morning on a visit of several days to Jordan, during which he will hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn and ranking Jordanian officials on the latest developments in the Palestinian issue on the Arab and international arenas.

In an arrival statement to a PETRA correspondent at Amman international airport, 'Arafat said: The aim of this visit which comes prior to the PNC meeting and after my visit to the Soviet Union, is to hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn on all joint Jordanian-Palestinian issues in light of the current Arab and international events. 'Arafat emphasized the special nature of the Jordanian-Palestinian relations, expressing his pride of and great desire to promote these relations in every possible way. On the impact of the Arab differences on the PNC meetings, which will be held in Algiers on 14 February, 'Arafat said that the Palestinian unity is solid and is stronger than all moves, be they Arab or international. He added: We have democracy and it is the right of everyone to state his own opinion.

JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE MEETS 5 FEB

JN051830 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] The meeting of the Jordanian-Palestinian Committee to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory began in Amman today. The committee approved the topics on its agenda and discussed and approved the support budget. The committee also discussed development projects for various sectors and made the necessary decisions regarding this. The committee will resume its meeting to discuss other issues on its agenda. The Jordanian side was led by Hasan Ibrahim, minister of occupied land affairs; and included 'Ali as-Suhaymat, minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs and minister of transport; Ahmad 'Ubaydat, minister of the interior; and Shawkat Mahmud, under secretary of the Occupied Land Affairs Ministry. The Palestinian side was led by Hamid Abu Sittah, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Occupied Home Land Affairs, and included 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, Khalil al-Wazir, and Hanna Nasir, PLO Executive Committee members; and Salih Ra'fat, PLO Central Council member.

HUSAYN RECEIVES EGYPT'S AL-BAZ, MUBARAK MESSAGE

JN062134 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] At the Royal Hashemite Court this evening His Majesty King Husayn received Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the Egyptian President's Political Bureau and first under secretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, who conveyed to his majesty a message from His Excellency President Husni Mubarak on his talks in the United States, Canada, Britain, and France. Mubarak's message contains a comprehensive assessment of the results of his talks with the leaders of these states on all the Middle East developments and the efforts being exerted to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Ahmad al-Lawzi and Court Minister 'Amir Khammash.

AD-DUSTUR: USSR OFFICIAL TO VISIT IN 'FEW DAYS'

JN050853 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] Amman -- AD-DUSTUR has learned from well-informed sources in Amman that a ranking USSR official is expected to arrive in Jordan in the next few days. The sources added that the ranking USSR official would hold talks with ranking Jordanian officials on the latest developments in the Arab region in general and the Middle East crisis in particular. The USSR official is also expected to visit other Arab countries in addition to Jordan.

13TH ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS RESUMES IN KHALDAH

NC070830 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Dispatch by Lebanese Information Ministry delegation from Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah in Arabic and French -- processed from Arabic]

[Text] This is the Information Ministry delegation at the negotiation in Khaldah speaking to you from the Lebanon Beach Hotel:

The arrival of the Lebanese, American, and Israeli delegations to the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah was completed at 1000. The delegations immediately entered the meeting hall.

Until the newsmen, television, and radio correspondents are invited into the meeting hall to take the usual photographs of the negotiators, we are speaking to you from a hall adjoining the meeting hall. Today's meeting will be general and comprehensive. The session will be public. The new points on the agenda of the negotiations will be discussed. Intensive peripheral meetings might be held. There will also be an agreement on holding meetings of the subcommittees to study issues directly connected with them. A public session will be held again afterward to study what has been agreed upon at the peripheral meetings. This is all we have so far.

Session Ends; Subcommittees Meet

NC070930 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0854 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Dispatch by Lebanese Information Ministry delegation from Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah in Arabic, French, and English -- processed from English]

[Text] This is the official delegation of the Ministry of Information reporting from the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah:

The 13th closed session between the Lebanese, American, and Israeli negotiators began at 1030 am to mention that Mr Nabil Mi'mari has joined the Lebanese delegation in his capacity as judicial counsellor specializing in international law.

The first closed session finished at 1045 am, following which the official spokesman for the Lebanese delegation, Mr Dawud Sayigh, appeared before the press to announce that at the beginning of the session the head of the Lebanese delegation, Dr Antoine Fattal, spoke about the security situation in the mountain area and spoke also about a zone falling under the control of the Israeli army. Dr Fattal also said that the agreements of The Hague and Geneva stipulated or clarified the laws concerning the security of the occupation army. It also stipulated, as Dr Fattal went on to say, the security of the citizens will also be ensured.

In any case, right after that Dr Fattal declared the closed session ended and at present the subcommittees are meeting -- the subcommittee for mutual relations and the subcommittee dealing with possible guarantees and withdrawals as well.

Today, this 13th round of negotiations in a plenary session is opening in Khaldah amidst speculations in the stalemate situation intensified by the arising of military incidents, but enhanced by the arrival this week once again of the U.S. envoy, Philip Habib, carrying fresh ideas he is expected to put forward in a bid to bridge the sharp differences that are still floating in the negotiations.

Lebanon has at numerous times made its opinion clear and the Lebanese delegation has outlined the general guidelines of Lebanon, foremost of which is a complete withdrawal of the foreign troops from the country and then a possible agreement on equally major points on the agenda for talks, and mainly the question of mutual relations.

The political sources do not pin tangible results on this 13th round of talks between the two countries with full participation of the U.S. delegation headed by American Ambassador Morris Draper. Authoritative sources declared last week that contrary to what the majority of people imagine, the discussion in the closed sessions are of the utmost importance in eventually reaching a clear view on the intricate issues that the conferees are confronted with.

This is the official delegation of the Ministry of Information reporting from the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah.

FATTAL CONCERNED FOR CIVILIANS' SAFETY IN 'ALAYH

NC070959 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0941 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Dispatch by Lebanese Information Ministry delegation from the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah in Arabic, French, and English, processed from English]

[Text] This is the official delegation of the Ministry of Information still with you and reporting from the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah.

This morning and following the declaration by the head of the Lebanese delegations, Dr Antoine Fattal, concerning the accords and agreements securing the safety of the occupation army and wondering why the citizens and the civilians were not protected by the army that is in control of that zone, the Israeli Brigadier General Ammon, who is responsible for security in the 'Alayh sector, is expected, or may have been called and is expected in the communications room to open the way to be questioned by the press. Speculations on his arrival seeped this morning following open accusations and skepticism over the role of the Israeli forces in the Ash-Shuf in general and 'Alayh sector in particular.

We will be with you the moment Brig Gen Ammon steps into the conference room. In the meantime, anything that comes up will be forwarded to you.

This is the official delegation of the Ministry of Information, still with you and reporting from the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah.

IDF General Ammon Interviewed

NC071310 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1229 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Dispatch by Lebanese Information Ministry delegation from Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah in Arabic, French, and English, processed from English]

[Text] Keeping his promise, Brigadier General Ammon appeared before the press and it was considered as the capital event this morning. In fact, the capital event was the implication of the responsible for the 'Alayh area, Brig Gen Ammon, who gave a press conference and in this conference he announced that a cease-fire has been concluded and it went into effect at exactly 1 pm among the different factions involved in the fighting in 'Alayh and the Ash-Shuf area.

Gen Amnon admitted having met with Lebanese Army men during his meeting with the three delegations meeting here in the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah.

Answering a question by a radio Lebanon correspondent, he declared that he believed a status quo is to be maintained until the Lebanese Army entered the area. He, on the other hand, disclosed that the only armed presence in the 'Alayh and Ash-Shuf sectors was now that of the Israeli army.

Brig Gen Amnon also confirmed that within the framework of the accord signed this morning, all roads have been reopened and roadblocks removed and the Israelis will take action to prevent any passage of armament and stop any kidnapping happening on any side. Amnon also invited the press to visit the area and find out with their bare eyes that security has in fact been established over all the previously conflicting area.

Two major elements appeared in this accord: 1) The imminent exchange of the kidnapped on all sides. 2) A collective arms, which he labeled could be misinterpreted especially in the mountain area at least not at the present moment [sentence as heard].

Brig Gen Amnon reiterated the invitation to the Lebanese Army to enter the region, disclosing that reaching an agreement over it was not difficult to reach.

At the present moment, the three delegations are having lunch and will in principle meet again in a plenary session this afternoon.

This was the official delegation of the Ministry of Information reporting from the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah.

PSP Urges Christians' Return

NC070749 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] An official source in the Progressive Socialist Party has stated that his forces and the inhabitants [of 'Alayh] have been able to drive out the militias to the approaches to the town of (Al-Miskin), which is now under the control of 'Alayh. He called on the Christians and all of 'Alayh's inhabitants who have left the city to return, saying that they will be safe and protected against any harm from the Phalangists. The source said that the Christian houses that are suitable as dwellings are awaiting their owners to return to them reassured. As for the houses which have been damaged, we offer their owners our own houses until their houses are repaired. But as far as the armed Phalangists are concerned, we have pledged unto ourselves not to let them enter the city.

LEBANESE FORCES REPORTEDLY CONTROL 'AYTAT

NC070637 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Last night the Lebanese Forces took control of the town of 'Aytat, one of the most important socialist positions, which represents a strategic military position on the 'Alayh-Suq al-Gharb axis. The local Lebanese Forces also took control of the surrounding eastern hills which overlook several Druze villages in which the socialists have military positions and artillery emplacements. 'Aytat and the eastern hills also command the 'Alayh-Suq al-Gharb and 'Alayh-al-Ghabun roads and enable the Lebanese Forces to control the roads over which the socialists get their supplies and infiltrate to attack the Christians in the area.

The military victory scored by the local Lebanese Forces in 'Aytat followed the bloody clashes that took place in the western quarter of 'Alayh between the attacking socialists and communists and the local Lebanese Forces, which confronted the aggressors, killing 11. The Lebanese Forces sustained two dead and a number of wounded.

It is worth noting that the western quarter of 'Alayh includes about 15 Christian houses. The Lebanese Forces only had a symbolic presence there. The few local Lebanese Forces in the western quarter would not have withdrawn were there no foreign facilities for the socialists and communists. A meeting of representatives of the Lebanese Forces and the socialists and Israeli officers will be held today to reach a written cease-fire agreement for the first time. The Israeli side will sign the agreement.

BRITISH COMMANDER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

NC041236 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] At a press conference he held in Beirut today, Colonel John Cochrain, commander of the British contingent in the multinational force, said that his men will be stationed in southern Beirut on the coastal road where a confrontation had occurred between the Marines and the Israeli forces. He added that the [British] contingent's headquarters will be the Regie factory on the old Sidon road. He said that he expects his men, whom he described as an armored reconnaissance force, to be able to move easily and to operate patrols all along the road which is regarded as the communications route for the Israeli forces between South and East Beirut.

AL-WAZZAN DENIES 'ARAFAT ASKED FOR AGREEMENT

NC041220 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has denied reports that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had asked for a new political agreement with Lebanon or for convening a Lebanese-Palestinian summit.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan added that the discussions with 'Arafat were held in a sincere fraternal framework and that the PLO chairman expressed this in the statement he made in which he pointed to the identity of views and readiness to facilitate everything that will lead to saving Lebanon from the Israeli occupation.

HADDAD INSTRUCTS SOLDIERS TO REPORT 7 FEB

NC070640 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Free Lebanon commander Major Haddad has issued the following statement: In addition to yesterday's order requesting members of the Free Lebanon Army in the eastern sector to report to Khayrallah Salamah barracks in Marj 'Uyun on Monday, 7 February, each member must bring with him his individual weapon and all military clothing given to him with a view to replacing them with new ones.

STATEMENT WARNS AGAINST ISRAELI THREATS

JN041857 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1840 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] A responsible source has stated the following: Israeli threats against Syria have recently increased. These threats have been accompanied by some preparatory actions [a'mal tahdiriyah] because of Syria's efforts to secure some defensive requirements particularly in the field of air defense. These threats and preparations are also accompanied by an increase in Israel's intransigence in Lebanon and its attempts to impose its terms on this fraternal country. At the same time, the Israelis possess a huge military arsenal in which they have amassed the most advanced kinds of arms and equipment to commit aggression against the Arab nation and threaten the stability and peace of the entire Middle East.

The Syrian Government draws the attention of the Arab and international public to the dangers posed by such threats and preparations aimed at launching aggression against Syria. The Syrian Government warns that it will take all decisive measures to answer the aggression and will regard any sabotage attacks against it as aggression. The Israelis will then be held fully responsible for their acts against Syria.

Damascus on Possible 'Aggression'

JN041641 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] The vehemence of the Isareli threats and provocations against the Arab nation and its steadfast fortress, Syria, is escalating day after day. The Isareli enemy and its U.S. imperialist ally continue their campaigns of confusion, provocation, and lies in order to prepare for dealing an aggressive blow to Syria, which has foiled and continues to foil all the designs of the Zionist-imperialist aggressive alliance against the Arab nation in general and the Lebanese arena in particular. It also continues to defend the Palestinian revolution because Syria has repeatedly confirmed that its banner is that of Palestine and that this banner will never fall. Damascus will continue to embrace and raise this banner high until the land is liberated and the rights are regained.

It is obvious that the Israeli-U.S. campaign is aimed at subjugating and compelling Syria to abandon its central position in leading the pan-Arab steadfastness and Arab liberation movement. Within this framework, Syria, together with all the Arab masses, is aware of the meaning of the escalating Israeli-U.S. hostile threats against Syria, as well as of the meaning of the U.S. persistence in supplying the Israeli enemy with all sorts of military and economic aid and to secure a political cover for its anticipated aggression against the fortress of Arab steadfastness.

In their numerous recent statements, the leaders of the U.S. Administration and the Zionist entity confirmed that the United States would not exercise any pressure on Israel to compel it withdraw its invasion forces from Lebanon or stop the settlement activities in the occupied Arab territories. This once again confirms that the practical implementation of the strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel will not stop at the limits of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. It will go beyond that to launch a large-scale aggression against Syria in order to end its leading struggling role and compel it to capitulate to aggression and the will of the aggressors.

At a time when Washington resorts to the use of deception by claiming the existence of differences between it and the Israeli rulers, these rulers are intensifying their military concentrations in Lebanon, exploiting the world's preoccupation with the progress of the negotiations between the parties to the Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli liaison committee. This is part of a premeditated hostile plan drawn up by the United States and Israel. Naturally, Syria knows that the excuse for an attack has already been prepared. Syria is discussing and studying with the Arab brothers Israel's aggressive intentions and preparations. The talks which President Hafiz al-Asad held with President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad fall within this framework. What is being planned by Israel and its U.S. supporters concerns all the sons of the Arab nation because it is connected to the nation's existence, future, fate and pan-Arab responsibility. As for Syria, its fateful struggle defines its stand on aggression and aggressors and in this respect it has a long record of militant history full of honorable positions and fulfilled responsibilites and duties.

Syria will remain as ever the object on which the nation's hopes and aspirations are pinned and will remain as it has always been known by the sons of the Arab nation.

CPSU'S BRUTENTS ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS 5 FEB

JN060611 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] Karen Brutents, first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, arrived in Damascus from Beirut this evening on a visit to Syria that will last several days at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command. During the visit, Comrade Brutents will hold talks with the party command and will become acquainted with Syria's economic accomplishments and historical sights. This visit is part of the cooperative and friendly relationship between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the CPSU and between Syria and the USSR to promote cooperation between the two friendly parties and countries.

Al-Ahmar Receives Brutents

JN061454 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] This morning Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th party assistant secretary general, received a USSR delegation headed by Comrade Karen Brutents, first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department which is currently visiting Syria at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command. The meeting was attended by Comrade Mut'ib Shanan, Reserve National Command member, and the USSR charge d'affaires in Damascus. During the meeting the Ba'th party assistant secretary general expressed his satisfaction with the developed relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the CPSU and between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Soviet Union, especially since the signing of the cooperation and friendship treaty.

During their meeting Comrade Al-Ahmar touched on the most prominent developments on the Arab arena and focused on the U.S. imperialist and Zionist designs against the Arab nation and the Palestine question. Comrade al-Ahmar also explained the dimensions of the conspiracy in which the Camp David parties are actively taking part in an attempt to drag new parties to the Camp David bandwagon.

Comrade al-Ahmar emphasized Syria's stand under the Ba'th party and its secretary general struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, a stand which is firmly confronting the designs and conspiracies and rejecting capitulation. He also praised the Arab and world liberation forces' support for Syria's struggle and steadfastness and expressed his appreciation of the USSR's positions and its firm and principled backing of Syria and the Arab struggle in general.

The assistant secretary general indicated the serious events currently taking place in the Arab region under various false slogans being fabricated by the United States and Israel to carry out their designs which are aimed at dealing a blow to Syria and its steadfastness, liquidating the Palestine question, and imposing hegemony over the Arab region.

The head of the USSR delegation, Comrade Brutents, praised the relations between the two parties and friendly people. He also pointed out that the USSR attaches great importance to Syria's leading role in confronting the U.S.-Zionist designs. He stressed his country's support for Syria's efforts to strengthen its ability to confront aggression and continue work bolstering cooperation between the two parties and friendly people for the sake of attaining the two people's aspirations. He also wished Syria continued success under the Ba'th Party and struggler President Hafiz al-Asad.

'Serious Military Support'

LD071755 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Beirut, 6 Feb (KUNA) -- "Our military support for Syria is extremely serious and the consequences of thsi will be evident at a later time," Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, declared in an interview with the Lebanese weekly MONDAY MORNING. HE added: "The Israeli preparations against Syria can only arouse the concern of the USSR." Asked what the Kremlin would do in the case of an Israeli attack on Syria, Brutents said that the USSR's military support to Syria is serious. Syria has obtained new Soviet missiles which the United States and Israel say are (?SA-5) long-range antiaircraft missiles.

He said that the recent visit by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal to Moscow as a member of the Arab League delegation could have good results with regard to future relations.

Commenting on Israeli war [as received] Minister Sharon's call on the USSR to exchange words and not missiles with Israel, Brutents said: "This is not the first time General Sharon has tried in his odd way to play the so-called Soviet card." He pointed out that Moscow would welcome the establishment of normal relations with Israel when Tel Aviv abandons its expansionist aggressive policy toward the Arabs. Our conditions for the establishment of relations with Israel, he said, is that it should withdraw its forces from the occupied Arab territory including Lebanon.

PDRY LEADER MAKES STATEMENT, LEAVES 4 FEB

JN041340 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, left Damascus at 1100 today. He was seen off at the airport by President Hafiz al-Asad. He was also seen off by Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, the prime minister; 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affiars; 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; and several ministers.

PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad sent the following cable to President Hafiz al-Asad from the plane: While leaving steadfast Syria we would like to extend to you in my name and on behalf of my delegation our warmest greetings as well as our appreciation and gratitude for the hospitable reception accorded to us during this visit. I am glad to express my extreme satisfaction with the results of our talks which emobdied the profound militant and fraternal relations between our two parties, countries, and peoples. On this occasion I would like to reaffirm our full and unlimited supprot for the steadfastness of heroic Syria at a time when all signs indicate that the Zionist enemy is likely to launch an attack against it to weaken its steadfastness by means of peddling capitulatory and liquidatory solutions.

Be confident, Brother President, that Syria, which is today standing on the direct confrontation line against the Zionist enemy and which is most honorably assuming the major part of defending the Arab nation's direct rights and legitimate causes, including the Palestinian people's cause, will not be alone in the face of the dangers menacing it. The PDRY will continue its full backing of Syria, placing all its capabilities at its disposal in the confrontation of the hostile intentions harbored against it. Moreover, all world forces of freedom, progress, socialism, and peace will support Syria's steadfastness.

Do accept our wishes for continued good health and happiness to you and for further progress and prosperity to the fraternal Syrian people.

Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad had made the following press statement at the end of his visit to Syria: On leaving fraternal Syria I am glad to extend the warmest feelings of appreciation and gratitude to our brothers the leaders of Syria, headed by Brother President Hafiz al-Asad, for the hospitable reception accorded us during our visit to Syria -- a visit at holding talks and consultations with our brothers in Syria on the current fateful issues and the ways to bolster the unity of the Arab national progressive forces in order to confront the hostile challenges to which our Arab peoples are exposed by the forces of the imperialist-Zionist alliance.

Our talks focused on the importance of boosting the Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, activating its institutions, and promoting its work methods in a manner which guarantees the repulsion of the imperialist-Zionist onslaught. The Palestinian issue occupied a prominent part of all the meetings held on the Arab and international development as did the ways to coordinate our two countries' stands. Our views were identical and this is something which gives expression to the depth of the militant relations between the PDRY and Syria and the two countries' determination to continue struggle against all the conspiratorial schemes by which the imperialist and Zionist forces are trying to strike at the accomplishments of our Arab peoples, weaken their national and progressive forces, restore the colonialist hegemony to the region, and liquidate the Palestinian people's inalienable rights to self-determination, repatriation, and establishment of their independent state under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

We are confident that the positive and fruitful results of this visit will contribute to bolstering our joint struggle against the expansionist hostile policy of the U.S.-Israeli alliance. In this regard we would like to reaffirm that the PDRY will continue its firm support for steadfast Syria, which will not be alone in the face of the dangers posed by the forces antagonizing our Arab people and nation.

SCP, PFLP, DFLP Officials

GF041000 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Feb 83

[Excerpt] PDRY Chairman Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad received at his guest palace residence in Damascus tonight Brothers Khalid Bakdash, secretary general of the Syrian Communist Party; George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP; and Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, assistant secretary general of the DFLP [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine]. During the meetings, struggling relations between the Yemeni Socialist Party, and the Syrian Communist Party, the PFLP, and the DFLP, and means of bolstering and developing them were discussed and the current Arab situation and significance of the unity and cohesion of the Arab progressive forces in confronting the assault hostile to them were highlighted.

REPORTAGE ON ISRAEL REACTION TO MARINE INCIDENT

'Surprise' at U.S. Reaction

TA031545 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 3 Feb 83

[Text] Political circles in Israel today expressed surprise at the sharp U.S. Administration reactions to the incident between the Marines and the IDF. Jerusalem says that the U.S. media description of the incident has been most grossly blown out of proportion. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

[Begin Frankel recording] The U.S. Marine officer's story, where he drew his gun and halted three IDF tanks, was received in Jerusalem with no small amount of ridicule. This is a John Wayne-style operetta, government sources told us; a story of the sheriff against the indians. The U.S. version of the incident has been described here as distorted and misleading.

Observers of Israeli-U.S. relations note that there have been differences between the reactions of the Pentagon and the U.S. Department of State. This appears to be yet another example of the differences between the two departments' political approaches. While Caspar Weinberger comes out with profuse words of praise for the heroics of the U.S. Marine officer, the State Department is more reserved and requests a thorough examination of the incident. One should note that it was Secretary of State Shultz who has recently said on various occasions that the incidents between the IDF soldiers and the Marines are exaggerated and blown out of proportion.

The sharp voices emanating from Washington come precisely following a week that made one feel that Washington was trying to moderate the harsh impression that there was a dispute with Jerusalem. Administration officials denied rumors that there is any intention of cutting aid to Israel. Not long ago, a meeting was held in Washington with the participation of acting Secretary of State Kenneth Dam and Ambassadors Habib and Arens. After the meeting, Jerusalem received reports that the United States was now apparently more amenable to the Israeli suggestions for the solution of the Lebanese problem.

To sum up: Yesterday's incident may perhaps not herald a new crisis, but it indicates that there is a sensitive and possibly nervous atmosphere in the relations between the two countries. [end recording]

IDF Officer on Incident

TA041639 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 3 Feb 83

[Text] The senior Israel officer present at yesterday's incident with the U.S. Marines in Beirut today spoke to reporters in Tel Aviv. Ari Ben-Sender reports:

[Begin recording] The Israeli officer, Lieutenant Colonel Rafi, explained he was leading three Centurion tanks on a routine patrol alongside the railway line in East Beirut, separating IDF forces and the Marines. He said that as he approached the point 400 meters below the Ar-Rayhan University science faculty, a Marine jeep left the campus and headed for his tanks. Marines were reportedly invited into the campus, which is just within the Israeli-controlled territory, by the Lebanese Army troops occupying it. This, after attacks were launched from within territory controlled by the multinational force against Israeli positions nearby.

Lieutenant Colonel Rafi said that the jeep stopped about 200 meters away and a lone Marine captain alighted and ran to his tank. The American told him he was not allowed in the area: Rafi said he had crossed no barriers, save for an old broken-down line which may have once been a fence. When the Marine refused to bring his superior officer, as was requested, the Israeli commander began to move his tanks up toward a vantage point a few meters away. At this time, Rafi said, the Marine drew and loaded his pistol, aimed it in the air and said: If you want to continue, you will have to kill me, to which Rafi replied: I have no intention of killing you, and then proceeded toward the vantage point.

He said the Marine chased his tank with his pistol still skyward, and climbed up when the vehicle stopped. He then grabbed Rafi's arm and the lieutenant colonel shook off his grasp, telling him to get off the tank. Rafi said he noticed at the same time as many as 100 Marines within the university perimeter, taking up defensive positions.

The Marine then said a superior officer would come, but Rafi explained that he was unable to raise his own command, so since his patrol was completed, he ordered the tanks back and returned to base, leaving the Marine behind.

Military spokesman said this was Rafi's first patrol in the area, but they explained that patrols are rotated not only by units, but by areas covered so as not to give a potential enemy a routine to catch onto. They went on to say that this was not the first time when IDF patrols had entered the area in question.

Lieutenant Colonel Rafi also denied American allegations that he had been involved in two similar incidents with the Marines earlier on. Ari Ben-Sender, Tel Aviv. [End recording]

News Conference With Officer

TA041647 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1845 GMT 3 Feb 83

["News conference with the commander of the IDF patrol about the incident with the U.S. Marines officer" -- ITIM headline]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 3 Feb -- The patrol under my command was moving in an area controlled by the IDF and we did not have any intention of getting near the area supervised by the multinational force -- stated Lieutenant Colonel Rafi, the commander of the three-tank patrol force involved on Wednesday in the incident with the U.S. Marine officer, in a news conference with foreign correspondents at Bet Sokolov in Tel Aviv this evening.

Lt Col Rafi, pointing out the site of the incident on a big map, said: "In the area where the patrol was moving, there are no positions of the multinational forces, and U.S. forces do not move in it. It is under our control. There is no barrier and there is no indication in the site of the incident to indicate that this is an area subject to the U.S. Marines' control."

The IDF spokesman stated at the beginning of the news conference that the IDF conducts daily patrols in the area of the incident in the wake of 10 terrorist incidents that have taken place since 22 December in which the IDF sustained 31 casualties: 2 dead and 29 wounded.

The spokesman went on to say that the incident with the Marine officer had taken place near the sciences faculty of Beirut University which had been taken over by a Lebanese Army unit with the IDF's approval. The Lebanese had asked to be reinforced with a Marines unit and the Marines had joined them, also with the IDF's approval.

Lt Col Rafi went on to say that the force under his command, which included three tanks, was patrolling an area where terrorists roam in order to set up ambushes to the IDF units driving on the Sidon-Beirut road.

"I saw a jeep driving toward us from the area of the university. Some 200 meters from the patrol the jeep stopped and a U.S. officer walked toward us. I got off the tank and waited for him. When he approached me I asked him why he had come toward us and he said: 'This is U.S. territory and you are not allowed to be here,'" Rafi said.

"I replied," Rafi continued, "that this is not the border and that the boundary runs along the railroad track, some 2 km eastward. I told him to call a higher-ranking officer to clarify the matter but he would not do that."

"I told him that if a senior officer did not come we would continue on our way and then he said: If you want to cross through here you will have to kill me first. I told him: Do not worry, we will not kill you," Rafi added.

"We moved to the side and moved the tanks up a hill in order to obtain a better observation point over the entire area. The U.S. officer drew a gun, pointed it at the sky and ran after us."

Meanwhile, Lt Col Rafi saw that approximately 100 U.S. Marines were running to take up positions in the area around the university building. "However," he said, "we did not have any intention whatsoever of going there to enter a confrontation with them."

"The officer's running with his gun drawn rather made me laugh," said the commander of the Israeli patrol. "I invited him to climb on my tank and I asked him where he believed was the end of the end of the area under their control and he showed me a place which has always been under our control," he said.

"Meanwhile," Lt Col Rafi recounted, "another tank climbed on the hill and the U.S. officer caught me by the hand. I pushed him slightly and told him to get off the tank. He got off and said he would bring a U.S. general."

"Since a U.S. general did not show up we continued our patrol. We moved to the side and later went back to the road which the Marines officer had said we are not allowed to drive on and we completed the mission."

Replying to a question, the IDF patrol commander said daily patrols in search for terrorists are carried out in that area, but each time on another axis and with a different force. He said there is no barrier at the site of the incident. There is no barbed wire or any other sign. There is just a line of wooden poles stuck along the road, and since they did not disturb traffic, the patrol did not touch them.

He pointed out that in previous contacts with the U.S. Marines, it had emerged that they are ready to talk to IDF soldiers and commanders. "Had they been ordered to talk to us and make things clear there would have been no incidents," he said.

Later, an officer of the IDF spokesman's office read the spokesman's announcement as follows:

"On Thursday, 3 February, in the morning, there was a meeting between the commander of the IDF units in the Beirut area, Brigadier General Amnon, and representatives of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut in which it was agreed:

1. The old railroad constitutes the boundary between the IDF units and the multinational force.

2. The lines have been marked and will be marked in the future by painted barrels in order to prevent any misunderstandings in the future. We hope these additional arrangements will put an end to misunderstandings, such as those which occurred last month."

The officer had earlier said that the boundary along the old railroad had been confirmed for the last time in a meeting between IDF officers and special U.S. envoy Morris Draper. He emphasized that the patrol had not approached the boundary or the university area and that it had been the U.S. officer who had left that area and approached the patrol.

Meridor on Marine Incident

TA041833 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] Economic Affairs Minister Ya'aqov Meridor says there are many elements trying to blow up the incidents between Israeli forces and the Marines out of proportion. Speaking with a Voice of Israel reporter, he inferred that Defense Secretary Weinberger had a hand in the matter. Meridor also said the United States should not try to pressure Israel because Israel is already mature enough to withstand even the stiffest economic and military pressures.

Marine Criticized

TA041828 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] Government sources in Jerusalem this evening told our political correspondent Yaram Ronen that the reports President Reagan is receiving about events in Beirut are exaggerated, unconfirmed, and unreliable. This was corroborated last night by the remarks of Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. In reply to a question, a security source this evening told our military correspondent Dan Scemama that if an Israeli officer had behaved like Captain Johnson, an investigation would have been opened against the officer, but not in order to give him a meritorious citation.

Netanyahu Interviewed on Incident

TA041908 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1840 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Interview with Minister in the Israeli Embassy in Washington Binyamin Netanyahu by correspondent in the United States Elimelekh Ram; date and place not given -- videotaped]

[Text] [Question] Mr Netanyahu, I understand that the embassy feels that this entire incident has been blown way out of any proportion. Why do you think this was done?

[Answer] I think it is no secret that there are some administration officials who are frustrated -- I would even venture to say that they are deeply frustrated -- with the lack of progress in Lebanon, having thought that things would progress much faster. They possibly incorrectly assessed the various components and the gravity of this issue and thus misunderstood how hard it would be to make progress there. This frustration may be finding expression in the need to find a scapegoat, and unfortunately Israel has been serving as these people's scapegoat.

[Question] Could such an incident, which I would say as an understatement makes us feel uneasy, not actually torpedo those arrangements [sidurim] or agreements [heskemim] in the field, for fear that something unexpected might happen?

[Answer] I hope the exact opposite will happen and that the end will come sooner, but in fact the cause-and-effect system works in the opposite direction. That is to say, the political thought rife among various administration officials is that it is by all means necessary to avoid a situation in which the Arab world could accuse the United States of collaborating with Israel in Lebanon. As a result of this attitude, orders and directives are being given to the U.S. forces in the area to avoid contact with the IDF units. Naturally, there are various units in the force, and they must have coordinated lines demarcating sectors, communications procedures, standard operating procedures for opening fire -- all the more so when several armies are involved. Here, the desire to avoid contact and dialogue with Israel, when interpreted to mean avoidance of meeting between commanders in the field, may turn out to be something extremely dangerous, as yesterday showed.

[Question] If you will permit me to quote U.S. State Department sources, they say that they are extremely afraid of the moment when a Marine might be hurt by the IDF, which they say could lead to a horrible deterioration in Israeli-U.S. relations. Is this truly the state of affairs?

[Answer] I think it could of course have very serious, heavyweight implications and should be avoided. The way to avoid this is the way we have in the last few weeks and months. We have in fact been urging the Americans to employ, namely to have direct coordination between the commanders in the field. To our regret, so far we have not received a response to this request.

[Question] Has what happened not pointed to an additional deterioration in Israeli-U.S. relations?

[Answer] I would not say that; I would say that there are certainly people who would undoubtedly find in this further proof for the anti-Israeli or hostile position they harbor, but I would not say that in itself would erode relations.

Misleading Information Cited

TA051720 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] Government officials in Jerusalem have said that President Reagan had relied on misleading information regarding the incident that occurred between an IDF unit and U.S. Marines near Beirut. They said that U.S. representatives in Beirut had determined that the incident resulted from a misunderstanding, and that the U.S. officer did not have to do what he did. The officials stressed that Israel has not made any promise to Washington that these incidents would not recur, because it does not consider itself to blame for what happened. At a White House press conference yesterday evening, President Reagan said that the Israeli Government had promised him that incidents such as that of Wednesday would not recur.

Marines Mark Off Area

TA051511 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] The U.S. Marines have placed white-painted barrels in the open area south of the Ar-Rayhan University science faculty. Their spokesman reported that the line of barrels is meant to mark the area under the multinational force's control to prevent further incidents with the IDF. The spokesman, Lieutenant Colonel (Walt Deforrest), said he hopes that the IDF soldiers will now know where they are not supposed to go.

Source of Marine's Behavior

TA060839 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Feb 83 p 1

[Report by military correspondent]

[Text] A strong smell of alcohol emanated from Marine Captain Charles Johnson when he climbed onto a tank and approached the Israeli officer who commanded the armored Centurion patrol which Johnson was trying to stop with a drawn gun, claiming that it was entering a forbidden zone, that IDF officer claimed.

This fact was not publicized earlier, apparently in order to avoid harming the good name of the Marine officer and worsening the incident. Military sources have said that they do not intend to claim that Captain Johnson was drunk when the incident occurred, but it is a fact that a strong smell of alcohol did emanate from him; that is, it is clear that he had drunk alcohol while on duty and this may have affected his judgment.

These sources also said that after having collected all the evidence and spoken with the U.S. representatives, they now had no doubts that Captain Johnson did not know the borders of the sector at all. In addition, they expressed their amazement at the fact that while in the western sector, which is under the control of the Marines, the Marines have been ordered not to halt armed people. In that sector, which is not under the Marines' control, Capt Johnson permitted himself to draw a gun and threaten an Israeli officer and his tank crew.

It has been reported that the commander of the armored patrol, Lieutenant Colonel Rafi, was scrupulously interrogated about the events by both the commander of the command and the chief of staff and his deputy. For the purpose of this talk, Rafi was specially taken to the chief of staff's office. Among other things, the chief of staff permitted him to meet with a senior officer of the U.S. Army attache in Israel.

The military sources said that from evidence in the field and from the observation points, they knew that the inhabitants of the Hayy As-Sullum quarter are in the habit of selling large quantities of hashish to the Marines. One of the merchants said that his business had improved when the multinational force arrived. The Hayy As-Sullum quarter has long been known as the center of hashish and drug sales in the Beirut area. From the observation points, one can see that the inhabitants of that quarter have recently started wearing U.S.-made military uniforms they apparently received in return for their deals with the U.S. unit, the Israeli military sources said.

Ben-Me'ir: Incident 'Closed'

TA061245 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] In Jerusalem a short time ago, Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir told reporter Avi Kohen that Israel considers the incident closed.

[Begin recording] [Ben-Me'ir] The facts today are known that Israeli forces were completely within the area which was assigned to us. This has been acknowledged also specifically by the State Department. The spokesman of the State Department, in this report I have in front of me, and I quote: "As it turns out, as it was worked out on the ground because of the features of the area, the actual point of the incident was outside of that area as that line is now constructed." And this, of course, the State Department, therefore, themselves, in effect acknowledges the fact that our people have said all the time, that the Israeli personnel and tanks were clearly outside of the area which was within the control of the Marines, and were within the area which is within our control -- as the line now clearly delineates.

We are happy that this has been solved. We have now a clearly, on-the-ground, physical demarcation of the line, and I am sure there will be no more problems in the future.

[Kohen] Have you, as it was reported this morning in THE JERUSALEM POST, requested a formal or proper apology from the U.S. Government?

[Ben-Me'ir] I don't think that we've demanded a formal apology. And actually it's important to us that the facts should be known, and we regret certain statements that were made; which completely, out of context and out of proportion, blew up the whole incident; and second of all, put it in a totally, I would say, unfactual context. There was no attempt of Israeli troops whatsoever, nor will there be, to infringe on the lines of the Marines, or to take any action which could be in any way cause anxiety. And we have expressed in Washington our minister there, Mr Netanyahu, has expressed our surprise at this, and our feeling that this was unfortunate. But I don't know of any specific demand for apology. We think that it has been clarified. I am happy to note that the press in the United States, the American media, has by now brought in most cases the true facts to light. And as I said, the spokesman of the State Department himself clearly admits that as now demarcated -- and this was of course the situation as it was all the time -- the area where the Israeli troops were was the area within our area of control, and did not infringe on the Marines.

And I hope that, as I say, with this the issue is closed, and I am sure that what's important is to maintain close contact. By the way, we have always asked for close contact. I regret that until now, for some reasons that are totally unclear to me -- we have close contact with all the other elements of the multinational force; with the Italians, with the French, now with the British. And that's why no problems arise, and had this been done all along there would have been no problems whatsoever. We are allies, we are friends, there is no need for problems. But when you don't have contact, naturally in the field, at the field level, problems certainly can arise. But I think that we should see the incident now as closed.

[Kohen] What is being done, therefore, to open up the lines, at least on the command level, so that if there is an incident it can be resolved immediately, and on the spot?

[Ben-Me'ir] Well, my understanding was that yet last week in the meeting with General Drori and the Marine commander this was worked out. Telephone communications, radio communications -- for some reason this was not applied at the time of the unfortunate happening, that Wednesday. I think that now once again this has been redone and reworked out, and I would hope that these lines of communication exist. It is my understanding that they exist. This is certainly our desire. [end recording]

CABINET 'NOT TO EXACERBATE' TIES WITH U.S.

TA051953 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] At tomorrow's Cabinet session, an effort will be made not to exacerbate relations with the United States following the incident with the Marines in Beirut. This was reported by our political correspondent Yoram Ronen after he spoke to several Cabinet ministers. Meanwhile, some ministers reemphasized the need to clarify that the incident was blown out of all proportion and that there are U.S. officials who want to exploit it to undermine Israel's policy in Lebanon. These officials are acting under the influence of U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger.

Minister Mordekhay Ben-Porat told our correspondent that Israel must make a supreme effort to clear up the misunderstandings and strengthen the credibility of its ties with the United States. Government sources in Jerusalem tonight again stressed that President Reagan's statement yesterday evening was based on erroneous information.

Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon will report to the Cabinet tomorrow about the incident in Beirut. In Washington, THE WASHINGTON POST wrote today that senior Pentagon officers believe that the latest incident is part of a plan by Sharon to lessen the credibility of the multinational force in Lebanon.

CABINET SESSION: BEGIN DROPS MARINE INCIDENT

TA061225 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1150 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer is now signalling us from the prime minister's office. The Cabinet session has ended, apparently a few minutes ago. Shim'on Schiffer:

The ministers are now coming out of the Cabinet session and we can already say that the Cabinet heard a briefing about the incident with the Marines near Beirut. A proposal was raised at the session to appeal to the U.S. Administration with a request for an apology or to publish an announcement on the matter. Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon rejected that idea. Deputy Foreign Minister Dr Yehuda Ben-Me'ir read for the ministers the reports that have arrived from Washington about the incident. The prime minister concluded the discussion by saying that the entire matter should be dropped and the war of announcements stopped, and so the Cabinet will not issue any statement on this issue.

Lebanon: Yitzhaq Moda'i asked to know if the defense minister, in his talks in Beirut, threatened the heads of the Christian leadership. Ari'el Sharon said: I have been accused of threatening Camille Sham'un, whom I have never met. The report I gave to the Cabinet was distorted and gave a misleading impression. It is the Christians who fear the possibility of Israel leaving them alone.

At the session, the ministers approved a proposal making it possible for every soldier, during his military service, to complete his basic education. However, there were differences of opinion on this matter, too, perhaps serious ones, between Finance Minister Yoram Aridor and the defense minister over a clause in the proposal making it necessary to add 30 million shekels to the defense budget for the implementation of this task.

By the way, across from the prime minister's office there are two demonstrations. The Peace Now movement continues, as it does every week, to put a protest guard at the building: One banner says 8 months for the 48-hours' war' and near the Peace Now demonstration, there is another demonstration with a banner: Peace for Galilee for 8 months now. A balanced demonstration. Shim'on Schiffer, the prime minister's office.

More on Cabinet Session

TA061303 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] For more on today's Cabinet meeting, over to Mark Lavi at the prime minister's office:

As I reported earlier, Israel's Cabinet discussed the incident involving the Marines and those three Israeli tanks last week. But officials indicate here as well there will be no request for an American apology over it. Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor said Israel did not violate any arrangements with the American Marines, and Israel demands that these arrangements be upheld in the future as well.

Cabinet Minister Yosef Burg told me after the meeting that what's important now is not an apology, rather that such incidents should not happen again.

Also at today's Cabinet session, Israel's chief negotiator to the talks with Lebanon, David Kimche, reported on last week's talks in Netanya and Khaldah. Defense Minister Sharon reported on other aspects of Lebanon's situation.

TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL, LEBANON START IN KHALDAH

TA070734 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] In the town of Khaldah, south of Beirut, the talks between Israel and Lebanon are resuming. Lebanese sources in Beirut have said that no real achievements should be expected from today's round of talks, mainly because of the expectation generated by the arrival of Philip Habib, who is supposed to return to the area this week.

Fattal on IDF Responsibility

TA070945 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0927 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] At the beginning of the talks between the Israeli and Lebanese delegations in Khaldah this morning, Lebanese delegation head Antoine Fattal dealt with the fighting between the Druze and Christians yesterday in the 'Alayh area. Fattal said that the inhabitants of the area are under the responsibility of the dominating army, that is, the IDF. An Israeli delegation source told our correspondent Elon Diskin that the events in 'Alayh are influencing the talks, although they do not bear on them directly. After a short joint meeting this morning, the sides broke up into the subcommittees. The discussions are now being held in the subcommittees for security arrangements and the relations between Israel and Lebanon.

'ALAYH FIGHTING CONTINUES DESPITE IDF TRUCE

TA071144 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1110 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Report from the north by Menahem Horowitz -- live or recorded]

[Text] IDF officers in Lebanon decided to mediate between the Christian Phalangists and the Druze soldiers, and invited the leaders of the two communities to the town of Bayt ad-Din, where a truce agreement signing ceremony was held yesterday. This morning, it was reported from Lebanon that despite the agreement, the exchanges of fire between the Druze and Christians resumed. The battles are in the 'Alayh area. Both sides are using RPG's. A commercial strike is being held in some of the areas. The agreement signed yesterday stipulated that the two sides would lift the roadblocks on major roads leading to the Druze and Christian settlements. The IDF will secure the town of Bayt Ad-Din, where the Lebanese Government offices are located.

Further on Fighting

TA071123 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] IDF officers are mediating between Druze and Christians in negotiations aimed at pulling the Druze out of the Christian areas they took over in 'Alayh last night. The town is reportedly calm now. A security source told our correspondent Shmu'el Tal that the IDF is not allowing the Druze and Christians to bring additional forces to 'Alayh, thus preventing the exacerbation of the incidents. According to the source, the Christians' claims that the IDF supports the Druze are unfounded.

IDF OFFICER 'SLIGHTLY' WOUNDED NEAR BEIRUT

TA060909 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] This morning, an IDF soldier was very slightly wounded after two explosive charges were set off at the side of the road along which an IDF patrol was passing, near the As-Shuwayfat quarter of Beirut. This has been reported by the IDF spokesman. The tracks of the people who operated the charges led westward to the area under the control of the multinational force. IDF units have begun combing the area. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the soldier who was wounded this morning is the officer who was involved in last week's incident with the Marine officer.

TWO SECURITY PERSONNEL WOUNDED IN SIDON

TA062109 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Two security forces personnel were wounded this evening in Sidon by fire opened at their vehicle from the ambush. The IDF spokesman reported that the wounded were evacuated to a hospital and the IDF units have begun searches.

MK REPORTEDLY ESCAPES ATTACK ON CAR IN LEBANON

TA060555 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Knesset Member Amal Nasir ad-Din narrowly escaped an attempt on his life yesterday while he was in Lebanon. His car was fired upon near 'Alayh. Nasir ad-Din escaped uninjured, but his car was totally destroyed. The Likud Knesset member returned to his home last night in the Druze village of Daliyat el Karmel. He has been active in recent months in attempts to end the continuing violence between the Druze and Christian communities in Lebanon.

Ad-Din Denies Report

TA061012 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Knesset Member Amal Nasir ad-Din has denied that there was an attempt to assassinate him while he was visiting Lebanon recently. He told our correspondent Yo'el Dar that he was caught in shelling between Druze and Christians while visiting the village of Baysur. MK Nasir ad-Din stressed that he would continue his attempt to bring about genuine peace between the Christians and Druze.

REPORT SAYS AID TO LEBANESE CHRISTIANS CUT

TA061425 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Feb 83 pp 1, 11

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Israel has recently reduced the amount of its aid to the Christians in Lebanon as an expression of its disappointment with President Amin al-Jumayyil's policy and disavowal of his commitments to it.

The senior political-security echelon in Jerusalem decided to substantially reduce Israeli aid to the Christians in various spheres, including defense, and Israel is taking steps to reduce its direct involvement in the intercommunal conflicts in Lebanon.

By these decisions, Israel wants to signal to the Lebanese president what he and his regime can expect if he continues to turn his back on it and Israel's political and security interests.

Senior Israeli figures, including Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, warned Christian leaders who visited Israel last week that relations between Israel and Lebanon's Christian leadership can no longer be one-sided, and that if President al-Jumayyil continued to stick to Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan's line, Israel would have no choice but to take various steps against him.

According to assessements in Jerusalem, the decision to reduce Israeli aid to the Christians has already had some effect, having substantially weakened the situation of the Christians in the intercommunal conflicts, especially in the 'Alayh area, which is of strategic importance to them.

In messages Israel sends to the Lebanese president, it warns that if he continues to disavow his commitment to it and the document of agreement with the defense minister, he is liable to lose his control of all of Lebanon and the support of Lebanon's Christians.

SOUTHERN LEBANESE PEACE MOVES REPORTED 6 FEB

TA061335 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1150 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] A peace committee has been organized in An-Nabatiyah in southern Lebanon and it is calling upon the Government of Israel to sign a separate peace treaty with southern Lebanon. The committee is headed by seven doctors, inhabitants of An-Nabatiyah, and they have been joined by dozens of academics and teachers from all the areas of the south. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports:

[Begin recording] [Hecht] Members of the new committee had planned to begin their fight this morning with a march for peace on the streets of An-Nabatiyah, but the weather was against the organizers. A driving rain fell ceaselessly and the march was canceled because of what is called a field of mud. The committee members met in the village of Zibdin and there Dr ('Abdullah Safi ad-Din) told us: There is no doubt that the Beirut government is the obstacle on the way to a peace agreement between Israel and Lebanon. One of the main reasons for this situation Dr (Safi ad-Din) claimed, is the traditional approach of the Beirut politicians who regarded the south as [word indistinct].

Dr [(ad-Din) -- in French] Our country takes no notice of us. Now we would like help from you, from the Hebrew state; [interrupted].

[Hecht] Our government pays no attention to the needs of the south, Dr (ad-Din) said, and therefore we are asking for help from you, from Israel. A peace treaty between Israel and southern Lebanon is a first stage. It will only take a few months, he believes, before the politicians in Beirut understand that it is worthwhile their joining. Is there no trace of naivete in these ideas, we asked? Do you really believe that you can influence the Lebanese embroglio through demonstrations and marches?

[(Ad-Din) -- in French] We, the people, must talk. We must talk, force the government through demonstrations, through things we do like this, through the press, through the television, through the radio, saying that we, the people of this area, want a legal peace, not a peace for the characters in Beirut.

[Hecht] We are the people, Dr (Safi ad-Din) says, and we must make our voices heard. Through the press, the radio, and the television we will put pressure on our government and we will show them in Beirut that we want legal, real peace, not peace that will only serve the people in Beirut and their interests. Hayim Hecht, An-Nabatiyah, southern Lebanon. [end recording]

SHAMIR INTERVIEWED ON FORTHCOMING FRG VISIT

LD040951 Hamburg DPA in German 2351 GMT 3 Feb 83

[Text] Jerusalem, 3 Feb (DPA) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir does not see "any substantial changes" in the FRG's Middle East policy even after the change of government in Bonn. In an interview with DPA in Jerusalem on Thursday, however, the minister added: "Perhaps there has been a change in the atmosphere."

Shamir, who will be visiting the FRG for 3 days starting Sunday, and then on to Belgium and Luxembourg, was very positive in what he said about the fact that Chancellor Helmut Kohl, in contrast with his predecessor Helmut Schmidt, announced his intention to visit Israel. "We are looking forward to Chancellor Kohl's visit," the minister said emphatically.

He gave an evasive answer, however, to the question of whether Prime Minister Menahem Begin, in spite of his views on Germany engendered by the holocaust, will make a return visit to Bonn: "It is still too early to talk about that."

Shamir stressed that the election in the FRG ("I promise not to interfere") had no effect on the timing of his visit. What mattered to him was to be able to speak to Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in his present capacity as chairman of the EEC Council of Ministers. Genscher last visited Israel in June last year, shortly before the outbreak of the war in Lebanon.

The situation of the Palestinians, whose right to self-determination the federal government and other EEC countries continue to support in spite of Israeli protests, will be discussed during his visit to Bonn, as will the negotiations with Lebanon and the peace process in the Middle East, Shamir announced. "I will listen and also set out our position."

Nevertheless, the foreign minister remained unyielding on the issue of Jewish settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories of west Jordan and the Gaza Strip, which has attracted worldwide criticism. Even calls for a temporary end to the settlement policy, in order to create the precondition for Jordan's participation in the peace process, were rejected by Israel: "Other wise our friends and enemies might believe Israel agrees with the view that these settlements represent an obstacle to peace."

The 20,000 Israeli settlers (among 800,000 Palestinians in the territory west of the Jordan) are neither a danger to the Arabs living there, nor could they have a lasting influence on the population structure. "We will never abandon" the principle of Israeli presence in these areas. Even if the entire world criticizes this, "we are profoundly convinced that we are right."

Shamir defended the Camp David Middle East agreements, which made the peace treaty with Egypt possible and provided an autonomy arrangement for the occupied areas, as the only "comprehensive" peace plan for the region. However, he did hint that Israel does not unconditionally insist on presenting this agreement, which is currently "the best basis for negotiations"; as a binding document for possible talks with Jordan. Shamir wants no part in the speculation about whether King Husayn of Jordan is prepared to negotiate. "I can only say that we will be very pleased if he decides to participate."

In this event, negotiations with Egypt and the United States on the autonomy part of the Camp David agreements -- which have been interrupted for more than a year -- could be resumed with prospects of success. "For the first time in history the Palestinians would have a chance to share in the decisions on their future," the minister added.

For the time being, what matters is to overcome the state of "cold war" with Egypt which, contrary to Israel's hopes after the peace treaty, has practically frozen relations. President Husni Mubarak had announced that these relations were to be normalized after a solution of the Lebanon conflict, Shamir said and added: "let us hope so."

LEVI COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES

TA052051 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2035 GMT 5 Feb 83

["David Levi on Israeli-U.S. Relations" -- ITIM headline]

[Excerpt] Haifa, 5 Feb (ITIM) -- Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said this evening that a joint effort is currently being made to increase the understanding between Israel and the United States, and that he is convinced that this effort will bear fruit.

Appearing at a Haifa Betar party at the Ron Halls in Qiryat Eli'ezer, he said that Israel is engaged in a difficult debate with its greatest friend and ally, the United States. Israel has a main and important goal, vital for its existence: the maintenance of its security. At times, this goal clashes with U.S. global interests. However, it must be remembered that we have many common interests, which far exceed all the differences of opinion, which must overshadow the delicate fabric of tensions existing between the two countries.

The deputy prime minister said that Israel launched the war in Lebanon in order to defend the security of its citizens, who had been subjected to recurrent attacks. However, Israel did what none of the superpowers did to rescue Lebanon from destruction.

Levi called for the unity of the people, saying they must rise above all the differences of opinion, because the campaign in Lebanon will end soon and the IDF will leave Lebanon after ensuring the security of the inhabitants of the Galilee.

The minister noted that during and after the war, unrestrained anti-Semitism broke out again. He said we must do our best to increase the understanding among ourselves on basic issues. If we fail to do so, history will not forgive us, he said.

IRAQ REPORTEDLY ALLOWS JEWS TO OBTAIN PROPERTY

TA061952 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] The Iraqi Government has recently introduced several palliatives regarding assets of Jews in that country. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that the Iraqis have allowed some members of the Jewish community to obtain property which had to date been frozen. Our correspondent adds that it is unclear whether this constitutes a political signal in the wake of recent statements by Iraqi leaders about a possible political arrangement.

The Iraqi Government has dispersed considerable Jewish property and handed it over to a custodian. The property is now being processed through various governmental offices. However, there have recently been some instances where assets have been transferred to the local Jewish community while the authorities turned a blind eye about the capitalization of the assets for the first time in many years.

Minister Mordekhay Ben-Porat has said that, in his opinion, the Iraqi position on this issue has not changed.

ALGERIA

RUMORS CIRCULATE ON ARREST OF OFFICIALS

NC051746 Paris AFP in English 1629 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] Feb 5 (AFP) [Dateline as received] -- Rumours concerning the arrest of several government officials and former ministers have continued to mount here in the absence of any official denial by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

According to common gossip, Colonel Ataylia, head of Algeria's first military region whose headquarters are at Blida some 50 kms (30 miles) west of here, had reportedly been arrested, but twice this week he took part in television programmes.

Religious Affairs Minister Abderrahman Chibane was also allegedly arrested, but he too has since been seen at public meetings in several Algerian mosques.

The rumours also said that President Chadli Bendjedid had been the victim of an attack, but he has appeared almost daily on television.

Other rumours, which it has not been possible to check with official sources, said that the foreign minister under former President Houari Boumedienne, Abdelaziz Boutzflika, had been arrested or that an international search warrant had been issued against him.

Former Tourism Minister and Ambassador to Washington Abdelaziz Maaoui, who also served under Colonel Boumedienne, is another person whose arrest was rumoured.

Legal sources noted that another rumour concerning the arrest of millionaire Messaoud Zeggar seemed more plausible, although it has not been officially confirmed. The millionaire was involved in the 1977 controversial kidnapping of his sister Dalila from Montreal, where she was planning to marry a Frenchman. Observers said that the mounting rumours could be explained not only by Algerians' predilection for gossip, but also by a traditional official silence and selective media information.

The rumours gained in intensity following the setting up of police blocks in the capital and elsewhere in order to track down a band of "criminals" wanted for allegedly stealing explosives.

Response to Rumors

LD052043 ALgiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 5 Feb 83

[APS commentary]

[Text] Purging, organizing the economy, preparing the fifth FLN Congress, these are the main current concerns for Algeria. It happens that at a time when the country is tackling the serious task of organization and devleopment, rumors, whose aim is clear, are circulating and are taken up and amplified in the form of a campaign of deception.

APS writes on this subject: There has been talk of a plot; there has been talk of public figures (?arrested); there has even been talk of the arrest of high-ranking officers who were implicated in some sort of adventure. Certain foreign press, which has a taste for the sensational, the malevolent, and effect, is spreading these rumors, trying to sow confusion in people's minds.

It is time to clarify all this. Our country is doing well and is doing even better since it began the process of a domestic purge to put an end to immoral practices, to organize the country's economy on sound and objective bases, and to establish in people's minds the ideas of rigor in management and conscious responsibility in daily work.

The domestic purge revealed the external framework for which foreign elements, anxious to destabilize Algeria primarily by creating problems for the smooth running of its economy and then by encouraging certain political currents under religious pretexts have no relations whatever with the noble ideals of Islam, are responsible. It is no accident in fact that certain economic units of a strategic nature such as liquefied natural gas GNL-1 at Arzew, for example are experiencing production difficulties. There are many other cases to which we could return. It is no accident either that the spirit of tolerance and fraternity which marks the very bases of Islam has given way to certain small groups which have assembled bombs and rallied souls with the aim of unleashing violence. It is no accident that a high-ranking official of the country released under a measure of humane clemency and political wisdom and in exile in Europe today is increasingly making malevolent statements, is devoting himself to noisy agitation, thus calculating on damaging his country's image and finally, by surrounding himself by notorious criminals, has revealed his true nature after selling his soul to foreign powers, which are manipulating him against his own fatherland.

All these linked interests, of course, were aiming at the stability of Algeria, APS writes further, whose political stances in the region and in the international sphere upset many people and give rise to concern. The Algerian security services are at present interviewing a man (Zeggar Massaoud Rashid), a well-known businessman. For the moment the inquiry is continuing and has brought to light certain practices, of which the least that may be said is that they are full of a desire to delay the country's development by preventing certain units from functioning normally, while [word indistinct] copiously distributing several thousand dinars to certain irresponsible managements cadres, fortunately not many in number, to establish thus the blocking mechanism and to weaken the rate of profitability. As soon as this man was interviewed, certain circles outside began to get agitated, fearing revelations which could lift the veil on some political or economic complicity in collusion with foreign services.

For the moment we have to reflect clamly and responsibly on the behavior of some people and repeat that no one in our country can evade the law or place himself above it. Our country is the target -- which is more to its credit than to its detriment -- of several potential enemies whose interests may be threatened or compromised.

However at a time when the fifth FLN Congress is being calmly prepared, APS writes, Algeria will be able to meet the challenge since it has confidence in its people which have always been able to portray to the world the image of their maturity and to express their dignity.

BENIN

SOVIET PEACE DELEGATION ARRIVES IN COTONOU

AB042110 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] A delegation of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace arrived in Cotonou early this afternoon. The Soviet delegation, which is led by Comrade (Isach Kritchev), chairman of the Tajikistan Committee for the Defense of Peace, will spend a week in our country. It will use the opportunity to discuss the issue of peace with Beninese authorities. The leader of the Soviet delegation explained that all people have the right to live in peace and that no economic, political or social development was possible if there was no peace. In conclusion, he said that the visit to Benin could be described as essential in the process of the struggle for peace. He reiterated his belief that the talks between the Beninese authorities and the members of his delegation would be successful in view of the efforts of the Beninese and Soviet Governments.

Meanwhile, the Soviet youth delegation which arrived in Cotonou this morning will take part in a cultural function tonight at 2100 at the Arts and Culture Hall. The activity is organized in honor of the visiting delegation by the Beninese youth. The two youth delegations will take the opportunity to exchange their experiences in the field of culture and to consolidate their militant relations. The desire to achieve this objective was expressed by the leader of the Soviet youth delegation when the boat carrying the 289 members and the crew docked at Cotonou Port. He explained that during their stay in our country, the young Soviets would hold discussions with all strata of the Beninese youth.

Tomorrow at 1600, the Soviet young people will play a friendly soccer match against the team of the Beninese National University at the municipal stadium in Cotonou II. Earlier, they will visit (Ganve) and tour the city of Cotonou.

GHANA

CORRESPONDENT REPORTS PROGRESS OF EVACUATION

AB042051 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Newsreel]

[Text] With the continuation of the government's emergency measures for the internal evacuation of Ghanaian deportees from Nigeria congestion at the various lorry parks and transit camps in Accra and Aflao border have reduced considerably. Reporter Thomas Tetteh visited some of the evacuation points in Accra yesterday and now reports:

Following the mobilization of state and private vehicles for the exercise, more Ghanaian deportees from Nigeria are being evacuated to their home towns. As a result, congestion at the various lorry stations and transit camps have reduced considerably. The long queues and rowdy scenes at the various camps at the initial stages of the exercises have also minimized. By 0700 in the morning, about 130 buses and trucks had been dispatched from the independence square with [words indistinct] there to join in transporting stranded deportees to their various home regions. The officer in charge of the motor traffic unit said many of the vehicles, which left on the first day of the exercise, had not yet returned from the regions.

At the Neoplan station near Kwame Nkrumah Circle, the presence of security personnel has contributed immensely to the orderly behavior by the deportees. At the trade fair site, the coordinator of the Provisional National Defense Council Evacuation Task Force, Commodore Obimpe, disclosed that over 30,000 Ghanaians arrived yesterday by air, sea and land. He said the Black Star Line ship, Korle Lagoon, brought in over 11,000 deportees. Sissili River is expected in Lagos to bring in more Ghanaians. Commodore Obimpe told newsmen that the deportees have started to pose a national crisis. Some of them, he said, are rude and rowdy. He noted that their lives would have to be reconditioned to suit the Ghanaian way of life.

Reports from Lagos say two fishing vessels are on their way back to Accra from Lagos with several thousands of deportees. The vessels, Agyena and Aboabo, are capable of carrying 4,000 passengers. These passengers are believed to be those who claimed they could not raise enough money for the journey by road. Informed sources have it that boarding was quiet and orderly. This was in sharp contrast to scenes of stampede at the early stages of the evacuation.

At Kotoka International Airport, it was learned that three chartered aircraft had brought in more Ghanaians. An official of Nigeria Airlines told me that the situation at the Murtala Airport has improved. A chartered Nigerian plane brought in 130 deportees.

The (?privilege) which taxi drivers enjoyed at the airport at the initial stages of the quit order by charging exorbitantly is said to be over. This follows the strict vigilance of security personnel at the airport.

Meanwhile, two chartered planes from the Spanish add German Red Crosses are joining in the evacuation exercise.

MINISTER SAYS 900,000 HAVE RETURNED HOME

AB050808 Paris AFP in French 0724 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] Paris, 5 Feb (AFP) -- Ghanaian Minister for Labor and Social Welfare K.K. Kweyie has said that about 900,000 Ghanaians who were expelled from Nigeria have already returned to Ghana through border checkpoints.

Also, the Provisional National Defense Council (PNDC -- in power in Ghana) has called on foreign governments and organizations to come to the aid (?of the country) which is confronted with the influx of its nationals expelled from Nigeria.

A committee charged with distributing the aid was also set up. It is made up of members of the UNDP [UN Development Program] and representatives of the Red Cross and of the government.

3,000 RETURNING VIA UPPER REGION SENT HOME

AB050747 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] More than 3,000 Ghanaian deportees who arrived from Nigeria through border towns in the upper region have been evacuated and transported to their respective regions. The evacuation exercise mounted by a special committee of the upper region administration has appealed to transport owners to make their trucks available to it to convey the deportees from the border towns, especially Kulugungu and (Wudana) in the Bawku District. The regional administration has made an urgent appeal to the Provisional National Defense Council to dispatch fuel to the region to enable the committee to carry out the exercise smoothly.

AIRLINES REFUSE TO SEND DEPORTEES' LUGGAGE

AB070749 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] In Ghana, the GHANA NEWS AGENCY [GNA] reports that thousands of Ghanaian deportees who returned home by air have their luggage still locked up in Nigeria. This is a result of the refusal of the airlines concerned to airfreight the goods even though the deportees have paid the freight charges. Some of them are said to have stayed at the airport for the past 12 days waiting for their goods from Nigeria.

According to the GNA, those who returned home by Kano Airlines, a private Nigerian-owned airline, from Lagos said they had paid as much as 215 naira as the purse that covers air fare and freight. Those who arrived from Kano in northern Nigeria by the same airline paid 205 naira for the fare and air freight. The situation has become serious because the airlines concerned have stopped coming to Accra since the expiration of the Nigerian Government's quit order last Monday.

GHANAIANS URGED TO WELCOME, USE DEPORTEES

AB070841 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Ghanaians have been advised not to regard deportees from Nigeria as outcasts; rather they should be welcomed and integrated into the society for the reconstruction of the nation. Speaking at the special church service for the deportees at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana in Accra yesterday, the publicity officer of the Christian Council, the Reverend Osae-Quanor, noted that the deportees were compelled by economic circumstances to find greener pastures elsewhere. He stressed that this revolutionary period needs people who can sacrifice for a better tomorrow. The Reverend Osae-Quanor therefore called on all to donate towards the rehabilitation of the deportees.

And at the [word indistinct] of the Christ Church at Kokomlemle also in Accra, the founder and leader of the church, Prophet Adade Boateng, urged Christians not to bemoan the problem that will be caused by the mass deportation of their fellowmen from Nigeria. Their deportation should rather strengthen our resolve to consolidate the gains of the on-going revolutionary process. Prophet Adade Boateng disclosed that his church will resettle some of the deportees on his farm at Ofankor. He appealed to the government and the banks to provide some of them who would like to settle on farms with the necessary inputs. Prophet Adade Boateng advised the deportees to be law-abiding, adding that any lawlessness on their part will worsen the socioeconomic problems of the nation.

WORST COCOA CROP IN 37 YEARS PREDICTED

AB060951 Paris AFP in English 0946 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Accra, Feb 6 (AFP) -- Cocoa production by Ghana from the 1983 harvest is unlikely to exceed 200,000 tons, and this will be the worst crop for 37 years, experts said here this weekend. Cocoa is the country's main resource, earning more than half its foreign currency revenues, and in 1982 the harvest totalled 216,000 tons. In the 1960's Ghana was the world's biggest producer of cocoa, with an output of 500,000 tons a year.

The downturn is due partly to a shortage of jute sacks. However, the Cocoa Marketing Board tried in December to distribute four million sacks bought from Benin and Bangladesh, but producers preferred to export their output illegally to the neighbouring countries of the Ivory Coast and Togo.

In these countries it can fetch three times the domestic price, earning CFA francs instead of the weak cedi. This is despite the Ghanaian Government's fight against smuggling which has included the closure of all frontiers since September 21.

The experts here also said that there will be difficulties in bringing the harvest to market because of the poor state of the road network. In 1982 cocoa earned the country 340 million dollars, and the revenue this year should not be lower as prices have risen from 1,000 pounds sterling to 1,200 pounds a ton, although sterling has lost 10 per cent of its value.

LIBERIA

GOVERNMENTS DONATES $20,000 IN AID TO GHANA

AB050656 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] A check of $20,000 was today presented to Mr Peter Kwesi Sackey, the charge d'affaires of the Ghanaian Embassy in Monrovia, as the Liberian Government's assistance towards resettling Ghanaians expelled from Nigeria. Presenting the amount on behalf of government, Foreign Minister Boimah Fahnbulleh said the gesture demonstrates the bonds of friendship that exist between the governments and peoples of Liberia and Ghana. According to a Foreign Ministry release, Charge d'Affaires Sackey expressed profound gratitude to our head of state CIC [Commander in Chief] Dr Samuel K. Doe for the kind gesture. He said his government was very much appreciative of the assistance, especially when Liberia is facing financial problems. The Liberian leader, Samuel K. Doe, in consultation with the People's Redemption Council on Thursday announced that the Liberian Government will give an amount of $20,000 to Ghana to assist with the resettlement of Ghanaians from Nigeria.

MONROVIA REPORTS U.S. MILITARY TO USE AIRPORT

AB042039 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] Liberia and the United States have signed an agreement for the improvement of facilities at the Robert's International Airport. The agreement worth $5 million was signed today at the Commerce Ministry in Monrovia. Under the agreement, the United States will expand parking [as heard] facilities at the airport by an additional 38,000 square miles and provide three hygiene outlets.

The United States will also construct two 8,000-gallon fuel storage tanks for the refueling system at the airport. In exchange for this, the U.S. military mission to Liberia and other U.S. military aircraft will use facilities at the Robert's International Airport for refueling purposes.

Speaking at the ceremony, acting Commerce Minister (Ayen Kassor) said the use of the airport by U.S. military aircraft was in no way an attempt to make the airport a military base of the United States.

U.S. Ambassador to Liberia William Swing said the decision to reach the agreement was long overdue.

REFINERY REPORTS LIMITED AMOUNT OF GASOLINE

AB051301 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1200 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] As Monrovia struggles to maintain its [word indistinct] and the Liberian Electricity Company's [LEC] protracted power rationing, officials have spotted another energy crisis, this time from the Liberian Petroleum Refinery Company [LPRC].

According to the Friday issue of THE OBSERVER, the acting general manager of the LPRC, Mr P.J.R. Seston, confessed in Monrovia Tuesday that there was a limited amount of gasoline for the country. He said the situation was not grave and that it would be contained shortly. He was further quoted as saying that the situation is even more serious out of town where most LPRC customers have not paid their debts. Mr Seston further (?said): We will not resume services until they have settled their arrears.

NIGERIA

NIGERIANS IN GHANA WARNED TO BE READY TO LEAVE

AB042034 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] The Nigerian high commissioner in Ghana, chief Adidjoju Adeyemi, has advised Nigerians resident in that country to be prepared to leave it the need arises. In a statement, Chief Adeyemi also appealed to the Ghanaian press to exercise restraint in reporting events connected with the Federal Government's quit order on illegal immigrants. He noted that any action resulting from the misrepresentation of facts might spark off reactions leading to a chain of events the end of which no one could predict. The high commissioner reiterated that the Federal Government's action did not violate the spirit of ECOWAS, adding that on the contrary, Nigeria remains committed to the strengthening of ECOWAS and would fight to prevent its demise. He assured the people of Ghana that there were thousands of Ghanaians with valid papers in Nigeria who would remain in the country and keep their jobs. More than 200 Ghanaians have so far approached the Nigerian High Commission in Accra for visas to regularize their immigration papers. Meanwhile, the GHANAIAN TIMES today in its editorial appealed to Ghanaians not to molest Nigerians in that country.

GOVERNMENT WILL COOPERATE WITH UN ON REFUGEES

AB060932 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Nigeria says she will cooperate with the United Nations in whatever arrangements the organization has for the illegal immigrants expelled from the country. The country's deputy permanent representative of the United Nations, Dr Olaba [name indistinct], made this known while addressing newsmen in New York. He stressed the Federal Government was ensuring the safety and orderly evacuation of the illegal immigrants. Dr [name indistinct] noted that the initial confusion at the time of the quite order would have been avoided if the borders of the countries of the affected immigrants were not closed.

ALIEN EXPULSION CREATES DOCK WORKER SHORTAGE

AB051352 Lagos NAN in English 1240 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] Lagos, Feb. 5 (NAN) -- The general secretary of the Dock Workers Union of Nigeria, Mr Jonas Abam, said in Lagos yesterday that about 7,000 dock workers were affected by the order on illegal immigrants to leave Nigeria.

Mr Abam told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that since the order, Nigerians had not come to fill the vacancies created as a result of the order. Mr Abam said that as soon as the aliens started leaving, the union mobilised the available labour force but discovered that this was inadequate. We have now embarked on a mass recruitment of people to fill the vacancies, he said.

OIL PRODUCTION FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER RELEASED

AB040840 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 3 Feb 83

[Text] Total crude oil production in November 1982 dropped 7.3 percent from the October level to 41,175,067 barrels. According to a statement by the National Petroleum Corporation just released in Lagos, crude oil exports only rose by 4.1 percent to 36,933,076 barrels for the month under review. The (?poor performance) noted was an indication of the continued lull in the world oil market. The statement shows that on the domestic front, a total of 5,744,546 barrels of crude oil was supplied to the three local refineries while 1,259,575 barrels were supplied under the offshore processing arrangement to augment the quantities produced in the local refineries.

The posted prices of the Nigerian crude oil were 26.31 naira per barrel for the high quality grade and 24.75 per barrel for the medium grade. The corresponding official selling prices were 24.42 per barrel for the high quality grade and 23.04 per barrel for the medium quality grade. The statement added that the prices remained constant throughout the month.

NAVY STEPS UP EFFORTS AGAINST PIRACY, SMUGGLING

AB041741 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] The Nigerian Navy has stepped up its patrol of the country's territorial waters and habor approaches to combat the growing cases of piracy and smuggling. In a statement issued in Lagos, the Navy said naval warships have been ordered to intensify the patrols to ensure that all merchant ships were free from the activities of pirates while at the same time keeping eyes on smugglers and unauthorized fishing trawlers.

The statement reminds individuals and organizations using the ports that it is an offense for unauthorized boats or other forms of water crafts to move about in the channels and harbor areas between 2000 and 0600.

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ANGOLA

MPLA LABOR PARTY DENIES ACCORD WITH UNITA

LD042117 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] In a communique issued today, the Political Bureau of the MPLA Labor Party denies reports that an agreement had been established with the UNITA forces. The communique says that such reports are false and are aimed at discrediting the People's Republic of Angola, at dividing the people and deceiving the party rank-and-file.

MOZAMBIQUE

MACHEL URGES UN SUPPORT AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

MB041224 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Excerpt] In Maputo, the United Nations secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, had deplored South Africa attacks against the independent states of southern Africa. The top UN official was speaking last night at an official reception following talks with President Samora Machel and other Mozambican leaders.

In opening the official talks yesterday, President Samora Machel welcomed Mr Perez de Cuellar's African tour as a means that could bring new blood and fresh oxygen to the world body. President Samora said that UN member states have a duty order to put an end to apartheid.

This morning the UN secretary general has been visiting the museum of the Mozambican revolution and the port of Maputo. Later today he will meet with UN staff in Mozambique and give a press conference.

UN SECRETARY GENERAL VISITS, MEETS PRESS

Comments on RSA 'Aggression'

EA042137 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] Un Secretary General Perez de Cuellar has said that Mozambique has a special significance for the UN because since its independence it has been a target of threats and aggression by South Africa. Speaking at a press conference this afternoon, Perez de Cuellar also said that he would do everything he could to stop the escalation of these acts of aggression. He hailed Mozambique's proof of good will and its active participation in the search for solutions to the problems facing the region. It will be recalled that the UN secretary general this afternoon also held a meeting with diplomats in Maputo.

On Namibian Settlement

MB041838 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar says he shares the impatience of the countries in southern Africa to reach a settlement that would make Namibia independent. Mr Perez de Cuellar was speaking at a press conference in Maputo this afternoon on the second day of his visit to Mozambique. He has also visited Angola and Zambia on his eight-nation African tour.

Asked about his impression so far he said the Africa leaders he had talked to want an accelerated pace towards Namibian independence and so did the United Nations, he added.

Speaking about South African direct or indirect aggression against neighboring states, the UN official said the world body will do what it can to stop such acts. But he noted that the United Nations cannot force any state to abide by its declarations, and that persuasion is its only instrument to protect the integrity and independence of member states that are under attack. The secretary general said that it was the duty of the United Nations to encourage dialogue and all efforts that promote solutions by peaceful means. Mr Perez de Cuellar yesterday had talks with President Samora Machel and other Mozambican leaders. Tomorrow morning he will go on to Tanzania, and from there to Botswana, Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Uganda.

Ends Visit 5 February

EA051606 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Excerpt] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar this morning ended his visit to the People's Republic of Mozambique. Our distinguished guest was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano and other officials, and UN officials in Mozambique.

NAMIBIA

LANDMINE KILLS SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIER 3 FEB

MB041207 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] A South African soldier has been killed in a landmine blast in Namibia. Defense force headquarters in Pretoria said this morning the incident occurred yesterday in northern Namibia. The soldier killed was 21-year-old (Karel Kramer) of Nelspruit. He is survived by his parents.

BOMB EXPLODES AT OSHAKATI POST OFFICE 3 FEB

MB041324 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] A bomb explosion has rocked a post office in Namibia. According to a security forces official in Windhoek today, the bomb exploded at the Oshakati post office at 2215 last night. The official says nobody has been injured in the blast and security forces are investigating. The extent of the damage caused by the explosion is still not known. It is also not known who was responsible for the attack.

PAPER REPORTS MUDGE-NUJOMA 'SECRET TALKS'

MB060830 Johannesburg SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 6 Feb 83 p 8

[SUNDAY EXPRESS correspondent]

[Text] London -- Two sworn enemies are preparing to negotiate secretly in Europe about the future of Namibia... SWAPO leader Sam Numoma and Democratic Turnhalle Alliance [DTA] chief Dirk Mudge.

An offer to host the talks will come from West Germany.

The move could have a major influence on the Namibian settlement progress if it succeeds and would dramatically re-establish the influence of Mr Mudge and the DTA.

Although SWAPO continues to condemn the DTA in official statements as "puppets" of Pretoria, diplomatic sources told the SUNDAY EXPRESS in London this week they were now at least willing to talk.

Mr Mudge's lobbyists in Bonn created the chances for talks with the recent issue of a pamphlet quoting him as saying the DTA now had to radicalise to the extent of becoming a force for liberation.

The DTA lobbyists have expressed deep bitterness about Pretoria's conduct prior to Mr Mudge's resignation from the interim Council of Ministers.

And although Mr Mudge was on record as saying he would never talk to SWAPO it is now claimed he has changed his stance.

Although the West German Foreign Ministry this weekend claimed officially that it had no knowledge of any move for the meeting the government is directly linked to the invitations.

It is understood that the Western Five Contact Group will be kept informed of the initiative, which reliable sources said was "a positive and promising contribution to peace".

Observers say that although avowed Marxist Sam Nujoma and capitalist Dirk Mudge are light years apart ideologically, they are flung closer together than they would like to admit by their common goal for a united, independent Namibia.

The ceasefire talks between Angola and South Africa, which could soon result in SWAPO being cut off from arms and Cuban backing, also puts the prospect of a Nujoma-Mudge meeting in realistic perspective.

One European source close to Mr Mudge said: "We have had no official confirmation of these plans but the West Germans want to make a positive contribution and this would be very constructive indeed.

"It should be seen as good news for all the people of Namibia. It could provide a channel of communication when it is most badly needed."

SWAPO leader Nujoma was in New Delhi on Friday meeting Premier Indira Gandhi after a long stay in Peking, where he was given celebrity treatment and offered weapons.

It is thought Chinese backing could play a significant part in SWAPO's next moves.

SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER SPEAKS IN DEBATE

MB050952 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] The minister of internal affairs, Mr F.W. de Klerk, says the answer to the problems of South Africa do not lie in meeting black, Colored, and Indian demands at the expense of the established rights and demands of whites. It can also not be found in meeting white demands at the expense of the just and therefore acceptable dispensation for blacks, Coloreds, and Indians. Speaking during the no-confidence debate in the House of Assembly, Mr de Klerk said that both these situations would lead to conflict.

He said that the National Party believed that the real answer lay in an understanding which resulted in justice for the reasonable demands of all the population groups in South Africa.

It also lay in the acceptance of the right of all not be dominated by another group in the recognition of the need for a self-determined power base for each group and nation, and in the recogntion of the need for orderly cooperation and expansion of the system within which cooperation on communal affairs may take place in an orderly manner.

Mr de Klerk warned elements in South Africa who were making muffled sounds of violence and who did not want to see orderly development in the country that they were playing with fire. If the government was forced to use the authority of the state to provent violence it would do so with conviction and success. He said that other groups had to make use of their opportunities to talk together, negotiate, and search together for a mutually acceptable solution to constitutional development.

NRP LEADER ASKS MALAN TO RECONSIDER STATEMENT

MB041227 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] The leader of the New Republic Party [NRP] and the NRP's defense spokesman, Mr Vause Raw, has called on the minister of defense, General Malan, to reconsider his statement on aid to rebel organizations in neighboring states. In a statement issued in Cape Town today, Mr Raw said his party had always supported South Africa's policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries as this was one of the party's basic principles. Departure from the principle set a dangerous precedent as two wrongs did not make a right. Mr Raw said where terrorists were being sheltered across South Africa's borders, he fully supported preemptive action against them. This was different from supporting armed rebellion against a legitimate government however much South Africa might dislike or distrust it.

CP-HNP AGREE ON 'BROAD PRINCIPLES,' NOT ON SEATS

MB051328 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] The Conservative Party and the Herstigte Nasionale Party have agreed on broad principles in talks but have not resolved the issue of seats contested by both parties. The leader of the Conservative Party, Dr Treurnicht, said in a statement in Pretoria today that the talks had reached the stage where there were no insoluble problems with regard to basic points of departure.

Both parties rejected the government's constitutional proposals and wanted the sovereignty of the white parliament to be maintained. Dr Treurnicht added, however, that agreement on the allotment of seats contested by the two parties had not been reached. The Conservative Party's suggestions based on recent by-elections had been rejected by the Herstigte Nasionale Party.

INDIAN LEADER NOTES PROGRESS IN REFORM TALKS

MB041432 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] Mr Rajbansi, the leader of the Indian National Peoples' Party, says progress is being made between his party and the government on the acceptability of the new constitutional dispensation to Indians. Speaking after talks between the leadership of his party and Mr Heunis, the minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Rajbansi said that it is a matter of give and take today. Mr Rajbansi emphasized that his party has made no final decision on whether to take part in the new setup. It would only do so after further talks and after the details have been made known of the proposed constitutional amendment bill by the end of this month.

SWAZILAND

CHIEFS TO BLOCK SPECIAL POWERS TO MABUZA

MB070830 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 7 Feb 83 pp 1, 16

[By James Dlamini]

[Excerpts] The Kangwane Council of Chiefs has resolved to block a bill seeking to give anti-unification leader Enos Mabuza power to detain opponents without trial. Mabuza tabled the bill at the Legislative Assembly meeting last Monday seeking permission to petition Pretoria to grant him detention powers. Mabuza is also asking his assembly to give him authority to ask the South African Government to allow him to establish his own police force in Kangwane. The chiefs see these developments as the second stage towards self-rule and ultimately "the birth of another banana republic in the midst of South Africa," a spokesman said.

The Council of Chiefs held an emergency meeting at the Embuleni residence of Prince Mkolishi at the weekend to discuss these issues. The theme of the meeting was: "application for stage two of political development in Kangwane."

The chiefs resolved to draw up a memorandum to inform the South African Swazis. They hold the view that Mr Mabuza's regime is against the aspirations and traditions of Swazis. They argue that he has shown a negative attitude by discouraging the teaching of the Siswati language and Swazi culture in Kangwane schools. The chiefs also discussed the resignation of the 10 Legislative Assembly members including Mr Lukhele. Mr Mabuza has asked the South African state president to give him power to strip the chiefs who resigned of their titles and positions.

"The interesting aspect of this is that he cannot do it without the approval of the state president and the state president will only approve if he is advised by the minister responsible for the homelands, Dr Piet Koornhof, who is a major figure in the land talks. If he gives his approval, then we will know whether or not he is genuine in his land talks with Swziland," the spokesman said. "This is bound to put Dr Koornhof in a spot," he said. "The Council of Chiefs is waiting anxiously for the outcome of these dramatic developments," Mr Lukhele said.

"The Constitution says that the assembly has to have 45 members. We want to see how Mabuza is going to replace the 10 chiefs who decided to quit if Pretoria does not allow him to sack them from their tribal authorities," Mr Lukhele said.

ZIMBABWE

ZAPU'S NKOMO PLEADS FOR END TO VIOLENCE

MB041222 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 3 Feb 83 p 1

[By Brendan Seery in Bulawayo and Robin Drew in Harare]

[Excerpts] Shortly after government troops killed two people yesterday by firing indiscriminately on passengers in a train, Zimbabwe African People's Union [ZAPU] leader Mr Joshua Nkomo made an anguished appeal in Parliament for the killings in Matabeleland to stop.

With his voice breaking with emotion, he said: "I cannot let the country go up in flames."

The government appears to be trying to suppress news of the shooting of the Victoria Falls-to-Bulawayo train by soldiers ostensibly looking for dissidents.

Foreign journalists trying to investigate the shootings, and other reports of brutality against civilians by government troops in Matabeleland, have run into heavy obstruction by officials.

The train shootings were reported briefly by THE BULAWAYO CHRONICLE today, but not by THE HERALD in Harare, whose main report was about attacks on Mr Nkomo in Parliament.

Mr Nkomo's appeal for an end to the violence in Matabeleland was mentioned at the end.

In his appeal, the ZAPU leader cried out: "My brothers, my comrades, the fire is raging behind me. There are people who are dead. Let us together put a stop to this thing."

In Parliament, Mr Nkomo was attacked bitterly by government members for his allegations that soldiers of the North Korean-trained Fifth Brigade had gone on a murder spree.

Mr Nkomo who at times was on the verge of breaking down, denounced the dissidents as "vermin," and said he had done everything to stop them.

He pledged his party's support for the Constitution and the rule of law, but said he could not keep quiet when the people in Matabeleland were appealing for help.

"You do not know what is going on," he said, and urged the appointment of a parliamentary committee to investigate.

Mr Nkomo said the police were powerless to stop the "young men" of the Fifth Brigade who were terrorising the people.

PAPER WANTS NKOMO DETAINED, ZAPU BANNED

MB041210 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] There has been a call for the Zimbabwean opposition leader to be detained and his political party banned. The call has been made in a editorial today in the state-controlled HERALD newspaper. THE HERALD says Joshua Nkomo should be taken into custody and his Zimbabwe African People's Union [ZAPU] party banned. Its says ZAPU has forfeited its rights to remain as a legal party and to remian in the government. THE HERALD says only such action can curb the activities of dissidents in the country. It accuses what it calls Nkomo's comrades of destroying government property which was intended to develop the very area where ZAPU draws most of its support.

Joshua Nkomo has reacted angrily to the call for his detention and the banning of his party. He described the editorial in THE HERALD newspaper as all nonsense. He asked why THE HERALD had not published his statement in the House of Assembly when he replied to allegations against his ZAPU party.

UN SECRETARY GENERAL PEREZ DE CUELLAR ARRIVES 5 FEB

MB051330 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] UN Secretary General Dr Perez de Cuellar arrived in Harare this morning for a 2-day visit to Zimbabwe, as he continues his seven-nation African tour. He was met at the airport by the minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Mangwende, and UN officials. Dr Perez de Cuellar later paid a courtesy call on President Banana at State House. This afternoon Dr Perez de Cuellar will hold discussions with Comrade Mangwende. In the evening he will attend a reception given in his honor by the Zimbabwean Government in Harare. Tomorrow Dr Perez de Cuellar is scheduled to hold talks with the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe. He will later leave for Botswana.

Reaffirms Views on Cuban Withdrawal

MB061159 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] The UN secretary general, Mr Perez de Cuellar, has repeated his view that the withdrawal of 30,000 Cuban troops from Angola was not a precondition for a settlement in South-West Africa. He said that in this respect he differed from the American viewpoint and that he believed that he had to work exclusively within the framework of Resolution 435 of the Security Countil.

Mr Perez de Cuellar released the statement in Harare after he had held talks with the Zimbabwean prime minister, Mr Mugabe. He said that the Cuban presence was a matter between Angola and Cuba and did not concern the United Nations. He added that it was a bilateral issue and that he did think the United Nations should become involved in those negotiations. He said that immediate action was needed on the problem of independence for South-West Africa to prevent southern Africa from becoming a region of constant tension. He also said that he had found African countries were losing patience over the protracted negotiations for a settlement in South-West Africa in accordance with the UN peace plan and that some immediate action was necessary. He added that he shared this opinion.

HOSTAGES' PARENTS OFFER PAYMENT OF LEGAL FEES

MB070736 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] A new effort has been launched to secure the release of six foreign tourists being held captive by dissidents in Zimbabwe. The parents of the six hostages have offered to pay the legal costs of the trial of two former guerrilla commanders. Dumiso Dabengwa and Lookout Masuku are due to appear in a Harare court today on charges of treason. The parents say the offer only stands if their sons are released unharmed. The father of one of the Americans abducted stressed yesterday that they are acting independently of the Zimbabwe Government.

[Begin father recording] We finally came to the conclusion that there was something else that we thought might be done that the government is in no position to do. I must admit we fully support the governmental position and the Government of Zimbabwe and our government, and I'm sure the British and Australians feel the same way: that there is no negotiating with terrorists from a governmental standpoint. But that doesn't preclude a private initiative. [end recording]

The parents have printed large posters detailing their offer. They are distributing the posters throughout Matabeleland, where the six tourists were abducted last year.